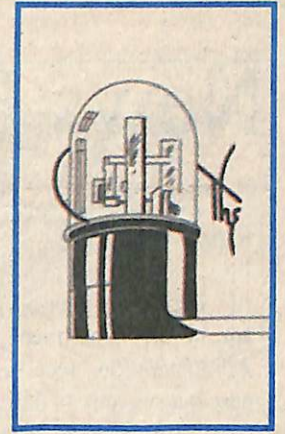


The Meter

Tennessee State University



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The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

Rashida Mingo Wins Miss TSU 2002-2003

By Tatiana Taylor
News writer

Rashida Mingo commanded the audience's attention during the 2001-2002 Miss Tennessee State University Pageant with extravagant costumes and entertaining performances to rise above her seven competitors and take the crown home.

The Somerville, Tenn., native donned original costumes made by Mr. Tennessee State, Reco Chappelle, for the pageant. She wore a silver and blue pantsuit and cape ensemble during the personality portion to *Push 'Em Off* by Three Six Mafia. She danced to an up-tempo medley for her talent and wore a fuchsia gown reminiscent of Elizabeth Taylor with sparkling jewels for evening wear. Mingo also surprised the audience during the swimsuit portion of the pageant as she transformed a red hood

into a cape in one swift flourish.

"I want Rashida Mingo to win because she's been groomed all year and shows poise to represent TSU," said Arthur Grimes, a sophomore from St. Louis. "She's well known and is simply a good person."

KaVita Payne, class of 2001 alumna from Memphis, also favored Mingo. "She . . . appears to be comfortable and not nervous," Payne said. "She's quite a professional."

"Silhouettes of Essence" was the theme of this year's pageant and the complete list of contestants included Robin Atkinson, Cheron Corbett, Carlisle Cornist, Keisha Endsley, Antoinette James, Gina James, Nubian Simmons and Mingo.

Current Miss TSU, Mia Evans, and Chappelle were the mistress and master



PHOTO BY BECKY HYLAND

The newly elected Miss TSU Rashida Mingo during the pageant.

of ceremony.

All eight contestants had to adhere to a three-minute limit in all categories,

and some contestants chose to incorporate themes within their shows. Simmons had a butterfly theme and James presented a skit that was incorporated into each portion of the show.

There were some students who didn't know any of the contestants, but focused attentively on each one as they performed.

"I don't know anyone of the contestants, but I am looking forward to see what they are going to present," said Antonia Spearman, a senior from Nashville.

The crowd mostly cheered for Antoinette James according to Arsenio Robinson, a freshman from Memphis.

"Since I heard more about her and I liked her gifts, I want Antoinette to win," Robinson said.

The talent portion was a highlight of the show. Atkinson and James both sang gospel songs. Cornist and James did var-

See "Talent" on page 7

Only 15 percent of students vote in this year's election

By Sherpri Giles
News Writer

Only 2,184 of Tennessee State University's 8,416 students, or 15.3 percent of the student body, voted in the April 11 and 12 Student Government Association elections, putting some people in office by fewer than 25 votes and leaving the Student Election Commission searching for ways to boost election participation.

In the evening representative-at-large spots, Raven Winters won the sev-



PHOTO BY HENDERSON HILL III

A student waits for her turn to vote in this years election.

enth position by a margin of eight votes over Shayla Toombs.

In the Miss Senior competition, Siddeeqah Beyah won by 10 votes over Trevia Boyd, with 105 votes. In the competition for Miss Junior, Candace James won by 12 over Ashley Smith, with 104 votes to 92 votes. James also won by 25 over Tiffany Bryant's 79 votes. In the competition for day representative-at-large, 22 votes separate the winner who received the lowest number of votes, Demetrius Wilson at 712

See "Lack" on page 3

News

News Briefs: Accolades, Les Brown, and more

TSU health care professor wins national award

Rosemary Theriot, associate professor in the department of Health Care Administration, received an award for career achievement during the Women of Color in Health, Science and Technology Awards Conference on April 12 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center. She was selected for her research and teaching in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention. She has led commissions designed to reduce sexually transmitted diseases and HIV and is a leader in the National Society of Allied Health Professions.

"I am still in a state of shock. I'm very happy to receive such an honor," Theriot said. The two-day multicultural event will bring together many of the country's leading health care professionals to address the role of women in today's rapidly changing health care industry.

TSU Tiger Gems and cheerleaders are something to cheer about

On March 24, Tennessee State University cheerleaders and Tiger Gems grabbed honors in the 2002 Black College National Cheerleading and Dance Team Championships held in Atlanta. The Tiger Gems defended their title as five time champions, while the

TSU cheerleaders took second place in their division.

Since 1998, her first year as coach of the Tiger Gems, Laverne Brown has coached the team to number one in the nationals.

"I'm honored and pleased that they accomplished this goal," Brown said. "We have won the national championship for five years straight. The team worked really hard every day and on the weekends in preparation."

Dorothy Lockridge, assistant vice-president of student affairs and adviser to the cheerleader and pom pom squads also added, "the students worked very hard in order to win. They were up some days at 5 a.m. practicing, or as late as midnight. Both coaches did great jobs preparing their teams for competition."

Tennessee State University Tenth Annual "KUDOS Celebration"

The President's Awards for Distinguished Service (KUDOS) was held Thursday, April 18, from noon until 2 p.m. in the Agricultural Research and Extension Center. The theme for this year's celebration was "Embracing the Principles of Diversity, Tolerance and Peace." President and Mrs. James A. Hefner hosted the luncheon and 64 individuals were recognized through the Distinguished University Longevity, Public Service, University Service and

Distinguished University Ambassadors Awards.

TSU's band selected to perform at national gathering of music educators

Tennessee State University's concert band was selected out of more than 150 groups to perform for the National Association for Music Education's 58th National Biennial In-Service Conference. The piece they performed honored the New York musical community in wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The TSU band performed April 13 in the Renaissance Hotel's East Grand Ballroom.

TSU makes Final Four in Honda Bowl

For the second consecutive year, Tennessee State University's Honda Bowl team has emerged from the 64-team field and made the playoffs in the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge national championship tournament held April 4-7. In advancing to the quarterfinals, TSU defeated four-time national champions Florida A&M University before falling to another past champion, Tuskegee University. TSU earned \$7,500 for its quarterfinal finish.

"We are extremely proud of these young men and the manner in which they represented TSU," said President James A. Hefner. "They have demonstrated that

we can compete at the highest level with the best young minds America has to offer."

Morehouse College repeated as national champions.

Les Brown speaks to TSU students

Motivational speaker and entrepreneur Les Brown inspired a "full-house" of students, faculty, staff and guests at Tennessee State University on Tuesday, April 16 in the Thomas E. Poag Auditorium in the Humanities Building.

With only a high school diploma, Brown said he knew that the odds were against him in the work force. Nonetheless, after great determination, Milton "Butterball" Smith, an alumnus of TSU and "voice of the south," gave Brown his first job in radio. He later established a career as a morning commentator to *The Les Brown Show* and has served in business and politics.

He is the CEO of Les Brown Enterprises, Inc. and the author of *Live Your Dreams* and *It's Not Over Until You Win*. He has received the National Speakers Association Award's highest honor given by the Council of Peers' Award of Excellence.

Brown said he believed his life was predestined to fail him at the beginning. Yet, according to Brown, learning "to walk by faith and not by sight" created his desire to excel.

Student publication falls victim to student apathy

Catrina Hewlett
News writer

Tennessee State University yearbook staff needs more student involvement, but it has received student apathy. The deadlines to apply for yearbook editor have been extended twice, and the publication board finally received applications from two candidates. Lack of involvement and interest is believed to be the reason for the low number of applicants.

"Honestly, I don't think many people know what the yearbook is," said Taylor Oliver, a junior from Detroit. "They don't even see the yearbook, until a year after the pictures are taken. Also, I think stu-

dents are preoccupied with their own business, and don't think the yearbook is that important."

Working for the yearbook or the university's newspaper, requires a lot of work, dedication and leadership skills. To be a section editor or editor-in-chief, one would have to balance class with the responsibilities to the publication, possess time management skills and know how to supervise and delegate a group of individuals. Due to these requirements, competition for these positions has decreased.

"There use to be a number of students applying for the editor positions, therefore raising the level of competition," said Dr. Gloria Johnson, associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. "Students need to know that on-campus jobs are

good for the future. Just going to class and to work at McDonald's is not good preparation for a career, unless you plan to own or run one later. Employers want people who can work well with others and prefer those who can head a project over a sustained period of time."

Student apathy trickles down from upperclassmen to lower classmen.

"Freshmen see that seniors and juniors aren't out there being involved with campus organizations and how it reflects on TSU," said Allison Banks, a senior from Memphis. "They are more likely to adapt the 'if others are not excited about it, why should I' attitude, instead of going forward and changing things."

As chair of the Publication

Board, Johnson wants students to know that these editor in chief positions are paid, and will get you more experience than the types of jobs students are leaving the campus to work.

"They prepare you to network, you gain connections through public relations and printing. You learn problem solving and you know what to do if the printer breaks. And overall, character building," Johnson said.

TSU may need to increase the level of competition by seeking employment within the journalism department.

"At other schools it's a requirement for journalism majors to edit the yearbook or newspaper," said Trey Taylor, a transfer sophomore from Chicago.

All the responsibility

shouldn't yield on the backs of the journalism majors or the few leaders that do apply. To make the publication a success, they will need support from a dedicated staff.

"They [editors] know it would be extreme pressure to produce the yearbook or newspaper on time," said Kisha Williams, a senior from Birmingham, Ala. "And they would need a supportive and motivated staff, which it doesn't have."*

News

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U.S. AIR FORCE

Lack of candidates equals all positions not contested in Student Government

Continued from page 1

votes, from the loser with the highest number of votes, Hermica Buckner at 690 votes.

"It is sad that we had such a small fraction of voters," said Kari Hardwick, SEC chairperson. "The numbers show, however, that the voters decrease as their classification increases."

Katrishia Somerville, a voting sophomore majoring in criminal justice, said, "I think the people that did not vote are taking there right for advantage. If they did not have this luxury, I believe there would be uproar among our student body. Furthermore, as a student body we need to unite for a better cause."

The following is the number of voters, by classification: freshmen 391; sophomores 305; juniors 338; and seniors 250.

"I think that it is very sad that only 1,284 students voted. It will be seen in the up and coming school year that the remaining students will be

complaining about improper school security, food, and etc. when less than half of the student body, representing student apathy, participated in forums held during election week." said junior class president, Deanna Walton

Hardwick said that to boost election turnout next year, she wants to extend SEC week and revamp the campaigning process.

"There is apathy within the student body for voters, but also candidates," said Student Activities Director Ronald Myles. "We do not have enough candidates to fill all the positions."

Only one person ran for SGA president, senior class representative, junior class representative (day), junior class president, junior class vice president and sophomore class representative (day). Eight people ran for the seven evening representative-at-large spots, two people ran for vice president, ten ran for the seven slots for day representative-at-large, two people ran for junior class representative (evening) and two people

ran for sophomore class representative (evening).

"I think competition would have been nice, but this issue represents student apathy rate. Furthermore, there are great leaders at TSU, but these great leaders need people to follow," said Walton.

The SGA is the key student organization that works with the administration in planning and regulating student affairs. Among its duties are to appoint student representatives to university committees, recommend student organizations to the administration for official recognition, and stimulates student participation in campus life.

See complete results on page 7.

The smartest man in the world knows he's stupid.

- *Unknown*

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COMMUNITY VIEW EDITOR: **Tosha Jones**

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MOSBY

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CIRCULATION: **3,000**

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.

Letters to the Editor

SGA President says, "Thanks for the memories"

ments.

Thanks for the memories. . . It's been a great year. My term will be officially over on graduation and I want to leave you with a few words.

First I want to address my relationship with administration; I want to publicly thank the administration for their cooperation with my administration. If I had to grade their performance, I would give them an A-/B+. While this might be a far cry from the "popular" stance of attacking administration and publicly embarrassing administration, I believe they worked very well on our behalf, from the Think Tank to campus beautification. Serving as president of the Student Government Association, I have been subject to personal attacks and understand how unproductive and immature they can be. One thing students have to realize is that TSU is part of a larger picture. The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) controls the funding and policies of our beloved institution. Therefore instead of attacking our administrative officials here, we need to be more politically astute and lobby the TBR, since they have an input in issues ranging from the Africana Studies movement to funding for academic depart-

Next year, my only wish is for the student body to work closer with the Student Government Association. WE NEED YOU!!! We need your input for every project we embark upon. While administration will listen to our concerns, we would have a larger impact if the students rallied around us.

I want to end by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your Student Government President. It has been an exciting and humbling experience. I wish the best of luck to my successor.

Damyon Thompson, SGA president 2001-02

See "Goodbye" on page 7

The Meter
would like to
congratulate
all the
winners in
this year's
SEC
elections.

From Where I Sit: My last words to TSU



Henderson Hill
III
Editor in Chief

I can't believe that I have come to the end of my four years here at Tennessee State University. Yes, it is still possible to finish an undergrad degree in four years. Although, if I would have been properly advised, before I was blessed with Gloria C. Johnson, I could have graduated last semester. But I digress, because I'll be finished in a few blessed weeks.

I can honestly say that when I entered the loud, musty halls of Watson in 1998 I was an unsure boy trying to find my purpose in life. And now at the end of my first path of higher education, I have two more paths to journey; obtaining my masters and PhD. I have become the epitome of what a confident, strong Black man, who is sure of what he wants in life, should be— Educated and successful. I know that I was sent to TSU so that I would be prepared for the greater things that my life is destined for.

I'm not going to front! I am somewhat intimidated by the next step in my life, but I am ready for it. I am ready to accomplish all of the things that I have set out to obtain. Through all of the late night study sessions, horrible roommate situations (except for my current situation; big ups to the best roommate I've ever had while in college- LRR), being hated on, belittled by elders who should have been motivating me and struggling through English 410 for too many times to mention, I made it. I have truly comprehended the reason why people pray, and the power that it possesses.

A faculty member ignorantly referred to my position as Editor In Chief of *The Meter* as an "anointed reign," as to say that I have been worshipped like an unseen deity. But this has not been a reign; instead my work for *The Meter* has been a learning experience with a wonderful group of people, the members of the staff who actually worked-I need to say no names, that has made me a stronger person and more prepared for the world that awaits me. To each and every member of *The Meter* staff, I will miss you all. You have given me something that I will forever be grateful for, the ability to learn something from each of you. Therefore, my life has been imprinted by your wis-

dom and concerns. I wish all of you unlimited success in whatever you choose to do. Never let anyone, no matter what his or her age, race or status may be, detour you from what you want in life. I hope that I have left you all with a positive impression that will continuously make you think, and strive as professional adults.

Tosha, this is your show now. I know that you are more than competent, prepared and overall qualified to succeed me. Just remember that administration and people with opinions here will constantly try to control and criticize you, but always stand firm on what you believe in; therefore people will respect you. *The Meter* is not here to be another Public Relations platform for administration; instead it is a tool to keep the University informed. Never try to do things like Mia did, or how I did... Do things better than we did. You will do well, because I have the utmost respect and faith in your ability as a leader, as well as your sincerity in what the paper's purpose is.

More than anything I have learned that life is what you make it. I feel that I have learned the most of my college career. Not because I had an abundance of support from individuals here at State, but because I realized my freshman year, while dealing with the negative attitudes from financial aid counselors, whose only suggestion for any problem is to take out another loan (even if you're on scholarship and they keep losing your money); and the women who sit behind the thick bullet-proof windows in the Bursar's office who seem to never smile, that for someone to actually help me I had to help myself first. Respect is not something that is given freely to anyone; instead it is earned from the things that make us who we are as individuals and how we present ourselves to others. This is a vital lesson that I learned at TSU, and something that I hope everyone learns as he or she matures and grows while here.

To some of the crunkest people I know, Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, Inc., Psychotic Psi Phi chapter, you have all been an extension of the four brothers and one sister that I already have. Just like any family, we have our issues, but we always support and uphold one another. You have seen me weary, stressed, frustrated, crying, heard me yell, vent and curse. But most importantly you have prayed with and for me like a family should. No matter what people say about the Frat, we will always remain a legit entity here at TSU. Remember that our respect comes

See "Editor" on page 7

Classifieds

Evolution Creative Group

The Evolution Creative Group is a Tennessee State University Student entertainment organization comprised of creative, free-spirited, talented individuals dedicated to encouraging artistic expression through various entertainment mediums, including television, music, film, radio, and Web. We have a diverse group of members who specialize in a plethora of disciplines, including music production, advertising, marketing, Web design, acting, graphic design, photography and event planning.

The organization's purpose is to:

- Give students real world experience in respective fields
 - Stimulate campus life
 - Promote student unity and self-expression
 - Improve campus communication
 - Bridge the gap between student, staff and faculty
 - Bridge the gap between campus and community
 - Provide new mediums of expression and communication
- The organization owns several small businesses, including a publishing company called Quiet Storm

Publishing and a record label called Indi Records, and it has partnerships with various local Nashville businesses that mentor us and guide us in achieving our goal, which is to be the most productive and recognized student organization.

The organization has planned and executed 15 on- and off-campus events to date, including the HBCU Think Tank After Party and the Relay For Life Walk for Cancer. The organization currently is working on a compilation CD called Tennessee State of Mind, Volume 1, which will display a variety of TSU musical talent and is due in stores sometime in late spring. We also are working on an inaugural film festival called "A Celebration of African-American Film", a television show and a magazine called Evolution, which is due out in the fall of 2002.

For more information about The Evolution Creative Group or any of our upcoming projects and events visit the Web site at, www.theevolution-project.org or phone (615)356-8447.

Shawntaz Crawford
Evolution Creative
Group President

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The Meter Mission Statement

The Meter's mission is to timely report the "highlights and low-lights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive changes in the world around us, while reflecting the university's multicultural 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 date. **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:

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

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News

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP



ON JANUARY 29, 2001, 25 YEAR-OLD TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT JOSEPH T. GREEN, JR. (JO JO) DIED. JO JO WAS ACTIVE IN MINISTRY, AND A RECIPIENT OF U.S. NAVY'S NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR. HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS MOTHER AND FATHER, AND THEY KINDLY REQUEST THAT YOU COME FORWARD AND HELP THEM IF YOU CAN.

Jo Jo's parents have filed suit against Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in the Circuit Court for Davidson County. Per the allegations in the Complaint, Jo Jo was pledging Omega Psi Phi Fraternity when he and other pledges were directed by the fraternity to White's Creek School. Jo Jo collapsed at the high school and died at the scene. The autopsy concluded that the cause of death was "exercise and environmentally induced hyperthermia and acute asthma attack" during a fraternity initiation.

Jo Jo's parents hope to understand more about what happened at the high school and in the fraternity. They hope their efforts will prevent another family from suffering this type of tragedy in the future. Here's how you may be able to help:

- Were you present at the January 28 - 29 initiation at White's Creek School, or do you have other knowledge of the events surrounding this incident;
- Do you have any knowledge of or information concerning the initiation, pledging or other activities of the fraternity;
- Did you know Jo Jo or any members of the fraternity; or
- Do you have pictures or videotapes of the fraternity?

If you have such information, please come forward and contact counsel for the Green family as follows:

Douglas E. Fierberg, Esq.
Sherman, Meehan, Curtin & Ain, P.C.
1900 M Street, NW - Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
(888)530-3303 - toll free
dfierberg@smcalaw.com
(for more information see www.hazinglaw.com)

Daniel B. Eisenstein, Esq.
Eisenstein, Moses & Mossman
One Church Street Building, Suite 500
Nashville, Tennessee 37201-1607
(615) 242-2521

New student organization seeks more Afrocentric courses

By Catrina Hewlett
News Writer

A new student group called Afrocentric Curriculum Empowerment Movement is pushing for six to nine hours of Afrocentric humanities courses to be required for graduation because they believe that Tennessee State University students are being miseducated.

The misconception some students have is that they are trying to add these hours onto the course load. These courses would replace existing humanity requirements.

"Instead of taking American history, you would take African American history," said Tonya Lewis, head of research for the movement. "Instead of taking American art, you would take African American art."

The group sent out petitions to see how the student body felt about this change.

This past student

election it was put on the ballot, and 999 students voted for the courses to be implemented and 85 voted against it.

"Afrocentric courses should be mandatory because it is part of our heritage," said Mary Kay Johnson, a junior from Chicago. "It is a part of all our heritage. We are an HBCU, and we need to focus more on our history, and European history."

Dr. William Hardy, professor of philosophy and religion at TSU, teaches three African based courses. He applauds the Africana Studies department that has spearheaded this movement.

"But the courses should be across the board," Hardy said. "We would then live out the theory of W.E.B. Dubois talked about, we are a people that look at the world in two eyes: one European, and one African."

"All majors should study the Africans in Diaspora who made con-

tributions to that discipline. Whites know your history, and there is no reason you shouldn't know it too," he said.

Hardy believes the entire society we live in needs to be reconstructed, and supports the ACEM for starting with TSU.

The ACEM still has to present the information before the Curriculum Board at TSU to get the courses approved, as well as the Tennessee Board of Regents because it funds state institutions.

"It's so important for the students to be behind us," Lewis said. "Without the students we basically have no case."

Some private Black institutions already have Afrocentric courses, such as Fisk University and Howard University.

Lewis states that TSU will be the first state institution to push for this.

Alumni give back on Student Motivation Task Force visit

By Brandi Montgomery
A&E Writer

Tennessee State University alumni and members of corporate America shared job insight and experience during the 23rd annual Student Motivation Task Force visit April 1-3.

This year, about 25 consultants from diverse career backgrounds gave presentations to students in 45 classrooms to motivate them to achieve their personal and career goals. The consultants increased student awareness of how the real corporate world operates.

"The consultants helped me get a better understanding of what to expect in job inter-

views," said Gregory Brand, a freshman from Memphis. "I actually listened to what they had to say, and I felt like they cared about the students and our progress."

Companies such as Ford, Boeing, Raytheon, State Farm, and Federal Express sent representatives to participate in the event, sponsored by the Career Center and Boeing Corporation. The program had been sponsored by General Motors, Lucent and Boeing in the past, and will be sponsored by Raytheon next year.

"Students have the opportunity to network and hear experienced alumni tell what corporate expectations are," said Tonya Fizer, program coordina-

tor of SMTF.

Florine Harbour, a 1977 alumna, has participated in the SMTF program for many years and said she will continue to do

so. **Task Force visits 45 classes**

"I just love TSU, my blood runs blue," Harbour said. "I feel like I would not be where I am if it were not for TSU. I love the students and SMTF activities. This is my way of giving back to the university by encouraging students to reach for their goals."

Task Force members talked to students about various topics such as interviewing skills, cover letters, internships and job searches.

"Students need to see people that are successful and hear them talk about some of the things that they did in order to get to where they are," said Elizabeth McClain, an

assistant professor of history who had SMTF members present in her class. "The consultants answered questions and gave insight into interviewing and resume' writing to the students."

The SMTF originally was known as the Youth Motivation Task Force and was done in conjunction with the Business Alliance of Nashville. Inman Otey, Director of the Career Center, changed the name upon arriving at TSU ten years ago.

"We wanted to put more focus on the students, so we

decided to call the conference the Student Motivational Task Force," he said.

Sonya Smith, co-coordinator of SMTF, said she believes that next year will be better. "This year we had an average of 45 classes sign up. Next year, we plan to have double that number with longer time frames," she said. "There also will be more planning with the deans, department chairs and student organizations to increase opportunities for the students to hear the speakers presentations."

To find out more about career opportunities, work study placement and internships, visit the Career Center located in the Floyd-Payne Campus Center room 304.

News

GOODBYE !!!

Continued from page 4

What is up at Tennessee State University? Every time I go to class I am one of the only three students that actually did the assignment. When I get on the elevators I see city names and Greek signs written on the wall as if they were a gang and the elevator is a subway station. My teachers get to class twenty minutes late and then leave back out to find the paper of mine that they have lost (again).

I see some students in class five times a semester, the first and last day, and the three test days in between. Administration and staff began rolling their eyes at my problems before I even hit the door. Then they promised to take care of my situation but the next time I saw them they forgot and then hit me with "well did you do what I told you to last time?"

I always wanted to ask if they even remember what that was but I already knew the answer (I'm not that stupid after all I am a college student). And after all this we wonder why our Black institution is not given the same credit as others. Yes all institutions have problems, but our problems are stupid and they are the result of us, all of us.

What is the solution? STOP. Students stop blaming the teachers for failing you if you know you were late everyday and only turned in two of the eight assignments (the two which you copied from your classmate).

And by the way, if you think that you're fooling the teachers with your cheating, you're not; they just don't care that much (they already have their degrees). You are in college, and no matter how close it resembles high school it's not.

Professors, can you be just a little

more professional. Students know about all of you before they ever enter your class, so every time you give a substandard performance, like taking too long to return a paper or test, you remember that when a student turns in substandard work.

Administration, if you leave out of your offices enough you will see these things everyday in every classroom. It is our students, teachers and curriculum that needs revamping, not the library, sub and cafeteria. Although we are now adults we still look at you for guidance and if we think you don't care, we won't either.

Most importantly, do something. Students, teachers and administration don't need to leave TSU without contributing something and in the case that you do, SHUT UP. You can't complain, not even a little bit, unless you have contributed something, and contributing and still continuing old habits isn't going to change a thing.

Everyone is so worried about preserving TSU history, why don't you work on one thing at a time and improve the present; the history will work itself out! Either way it goes I'm out of here and TSU has been good to me, but only because I made it that way. And unlike many other alumni I will give back, not because TSU is the best school but because that is what I want it to become.

-LaDawn Blackett
English Major
Atlanta
Graduating Senior

Editor in Chief says his final piece

Continued from page 4

from the validity of our actions and principles. So never feel discouraged by Pan-Hellenic Greeks not agreeing with your existence, instead keep doing what you're supposed to do which is uphold the community (which the majority of Pan-Hel Greeks here don't) in which TSU is located in. Plus, who cares what other people think, it's all about how you represent yourself and the organization. Plus what other organization on campus has members such as the last 12 United States Presidents, Bill Cosby, Former Astronaut

James Lovell and many more distinguished individuals. This past year the Student Government Association President, Miss Junior, SGA Representatives, a number of Presidential Scholars, members of the Student Election Commission, the track team, the Pan-Hellenic Council President and The Editor In Chief of *The Meter* are all members of the Frat. Enough said. I will miss all of you. 19-25! Psi Phi _____ 'til the day I die.*

Talent portion highlight of Miss TSU pageant

Continued from page 1

ious styles of dancing. Endsley and Simmons recited poetry and Corbett performed a dramatic soliloquy.

As always, the current Miss TSU had to take her final walk before the end of the pageant.

Evans reflected on her past experiences while holding the title. She thanked many people who supported her, including family, friends, the TSU family and most importantly, the Lord.

"If it would have not been for the

Lord, I would not be standing here tonight," Evans said.

The final portion of the pageant was question and answer. Each contestant chose their questions as Evans read them. When Mingo was asked her question, she walked to the center of the stage as the audience positively responded with applause and praise.

"I am truly dedicated," Mingo said. "to serving my TSU family."•

SEC 2002 Election Results	
Office	Number of Votes
SGA Vice President	
Kennethra Edwards	824
Angela Frierson	415
SGA President	
Jamie Riley	1183
Miss TSU	
Rashida Mingo	578
Robin Atkinson	220
Cheron Corbett	127
Nubian Simmons	121
Antionette James	118
Gina James	58
Keisha Endsley	20
Carlsee Cornist	18
Representative-at-large (7 day)	
Brian Sexton	906
Chasseny Lewis	850
Courtney White	843
Brandon Maclin	818
Nekya Young	803
Khalelah Henderson	718
Demetrius Wilson	712
Hermica Buckner	690
Claudia Woods	644
Meredith Miller	619
Representatives-at-Large (7 Evening)	
Charles Galbreath, Jr.	1006
Sharica Smallwood	1001
Chauncey Davis	993
Kiyaoko Clark	939
Esther Baptiste	936
Candice Benbow	922
Raven Winters	883
Shayla Toombs	875
Senior Class Representative (Day)	
Terica Smith	324
Miss Senior	
Siddeeqah Beyah	105
Trvia Boyd	95
Felecia Ellis	62
Tracie Chapman	34
Calisa Nelson	32
Junior Class Representative (Day)	
Bridgette Hall	283
Junior Class Representative (Evening)	
Jamaal Boykin	178
Patrick Sneed	109
Junior Class President	
Deanna Walton	284
Junior Class Vice President	
Nikkitta Bryson	218
Miss Junior	
Candace James	104
Ashley Smith	92
Tiffany Bryant	79
Amy Willoughby	17
Sophomore Class Representative (Day)	
April Thomas	368
Sophomore Class Representative (Evening)	
Tolaison Johnson	203
Shari Thompson	174
Miss Sophomore	
Yoland Robinson	250
Delbrieta Greene	128
SEC Election Results Per Class	
Classification	Number of Voters
Freshman	391
Sophomore	305
Junior	338
Senior	250
Total	1284

News

From Where I Stand: My final reflection on TSU



Raynata Y. Reed
News
Editor

Steve Harvey once opened a comedy show by saying (something to the effect of), "I'm going to say some things tonight that will make you all think I'm not a child of God..." Well, I don't plan on losing my religion, but I do want to speak some truths, reflect on Tennessee State, say some good-byes (for now) and drop a few last words of wisdom. Well, screw the wisdom part, but they're definitely words.

First to TSU, the institution, people and what have you: it's not perfect (big surprise). I know there are people out there pushing for Afrocentric courses, but we can't get along with the Black people who are surrounding us everyday. What about some 'manners and etiquette' classes? How about some 'male to female' interactions classes? (And no, that doesn't mean sex. From what I've seen and heard these last four years, most everyone has that down. Everybody may not know how to do a logarithm, but there are undergrads with master degrees in sex). How about some 'treat some people around you with respect' classes? Anyway, I could create an entire new course catalog with classes for everybody from students to faculty to administrators, but I'll stop there (I'll e-mail them to President Hefner if he wants them). So let's get in the right frame of mind before we start trying to learn Black history, because if we don't, we're not going to appreciate it anyway. Despite my many, many, many, grievances with TSU (Lord, I won't go into them, but if you see me and want to know any, I'll be happy to share) it's still a blessing to be here. There are people who don't get to go to college at all. Though, don't get me wrong; I'm more than ecstatic to be leaving. And if anybody messes with my records between now and May 11, there's going to be trouble. This is not a warning, but a promise.

To "Big Brother" Tre, the HNIC: I think that you have been a strong leader throughout this year without bowing down, surrendering or compromising who you are. You fought for the staff as a whole at times, and in the same breath could cuss us out. I respect your ambition, your drive and staying true to your goals, and I know you will be successful, but I know if Oprah ever calls.... well, I

understand player. You have been a great friend and most of the time I enjoyed working with you (smile). I will miss you.

Ms. Foster: I have so much respect for you because you know "your stuff." You have guided us, some of us in class as well as on *The Meter*, about so many aspects of journalism. If at any time you felt I didn't live, breath, eat and sleep journalism, I apologize. Lord knows I tried.

Tosha: Since you are so quiet and sweet, I don't know if people know how crazy you are too. I have enjoyed working with you this year and getting to know you not as just a colleague, but as a friend. I wish you much success in the future and perhaps our paths will cross again when we start our magazine.

Alan: When you sell your first screenplay, don't forget to give me a shout-out. You are definitely not afraid to speak your mind and I admire that. You have been a great friend and I've enjoyed talking about people with you in the office (you know who they were!)

Marcus: You're like Houdini-you're here, and then you disappear for a while. Your sarcastic wit either amused me or ticked me off, depending on the day. Thanks for lunch and I wish you the best.

Brandi: It's been a pleasure getting to know you this year. I've enjoyed our many, many conversations on life, people, issues, the paper, and everything under the sun. Let's keep in touch always.

Sherpri: I know you will do well as news editor. You have a lot of great ideas and a drive that you will need to keep for next year. Good luck and God Speed: I'm passing the torch.

To my staff: Michelle, I know that God will bless you in all your future endeavors. I wish you luck and I know you will persevere. Tatiana: You're such a sweet person: keep your quiet demeanor and let no one phase you. I enjoyed riding home with you, even though we got lost. Dywuan: Thanks for staying dedicated and usually having something for me by deadline. Catrina: You have a drive that I really admire. Keep that for next year-you'll need it. Crystal: You know what the business is. Even though you're my Ace, you're not getting a party. Jennifer (for your one story): Even though you could sometimes work my nerves, you have your moments when I can tolerate you (smile). I know you'll do well in the future, just learn to let some things go.

Dr. Donald Page: Did you ever know that you're my hero? Thanks for advising me in all the right directions

these four years. Thanks for returning my calls and e-mails. Thanks for calling me back that night my computer was doing something crazy. (That my friends, is dedication). When things at TSU start making sense, maybe they'll make you department head, a title that YOU rightly deserve. (But don't take the job unless the numbers get bigger both in front of and behind the decimal point on the pay stub if you get my drift).

A few more faculty shout-outs: Dr. Onyejiaka: I know class is in session, but I'm about to graduate. Dr. Insignares: Thanks for relating to your students on more than just a student/teacher level. Dr. Idoye: Thanks for your vote and your stories on hustling. Dr. Sturgeon: Thanks for also relating to your students. Dr. McDonald: Thanks for the Buffalo Express. Dr. Houston: I'll always remember the duped and the duper, and I know Linda and I were the favorite students in Senior Colloquium! Dr. Phillips: I learned so much from your classes and thanks for your constant enthusiasm.

Shayla and Linda: You guys have been more than my best friends, but my family, for four years. I know people who claim everybody and they mama as their best friends, but they can't trust, can't believe or can't stand them. I'm glad I don't have that problem. You two are as close to me as the three sisters I have by blood. I won't say good-bye, just God Bless: in everything you do and hope to be. I know we will stay in touch, no matter where we are or who we become. Much love to you both and don't ever change.

Mama, Daddy, Leesa, Rosalyn and Angela: Last, but certainly not least, my family. You all have been a big part of me making it through these last four years: financially, spiritually, mentally, emotionally and more. Thanks for all you have done and for who you are. I love you all.

To the students from Southern who talked about us in their paper: I know I've said some things that may sound disparaging against my school, but I go here. I didn't appreciate the attitudes that were brought with the Southern students who came (before and after the Think Tank), nor the comments that were made in their paper after visiting TSU. When you're on the outside looking in, you're just trying to promote your own school and make yourselves look better. But I'm on the inside so I know what I'm talking about. Should any of you have any problems with this statement, feel free to e-mail a sista-raynata98@hotmail.com.

Did I Miss Ya?: To anyone, if I

failed to mention your name, don't take it personally. I hope that while I was here, if I found favor or didn't find favor with anyone, including teachers, students, associates, administrators and employees of TSU, I hope it was based on my merits and who I was as a person, and not on their own personal prejudices and biases. I've found that at TSU, people will like you for some of the craziest reasons and dislike you for the same. I've never been a ...well, brown noser, and I don't have time to stay up as people's offices. For those of you who do, more power to you. I'm trying to get things done.

And to all the haters, complainers, criticizers and the like of the paper (administrators, teachers and students included): if you can't give us the respect of writing a letter to the editor about something that displeases you or if we have to hear about your grievances through the grapevine-keep it. Come to the office and sit down with us (the editorial board, staff, etc.) and let's talk. We don't want to hear it through the editor in chief or the adviser. The office is on the third floor of the student center and it hasn't moved since the dawn of creation (President Hefner can tell you where it is). *Otherwise, keep your noise.* We know you're busy but guess what? So are we. Constructive criticism is always helpful, but respect us enough to look us in the eye if you have issues. You know who you are so I don't have to say any names.

Please stand for the benediction: May the Lord's peace, love and WISDOM (especially) be with all who enter and leave this school, both now and forever more. Amen.*

THE METER
STAFF
WISHES
RAYNATA
Y.
REED
MUCH
SUCCESS IN
HER FUTURE
ENDEAVORS.

News

From Where I Edited: So long, TSU



Brandi Montgomery
Copy Editor

When I stepped into *The Meter* office in August of 1997, I had no idea what to expect. Little did I know, *The Meter* would play an important part of my TSU years. I thank God for putting Ambre Brown into my life (former *Meter* editor) and Pamela Foster, they were the ones who truly helped me realize that journalism was my calling.

My five years at TSU have etched a new chapter in my book of life. It was here that I came into my identity and met people who will always have a place in my heart.

Dr. Insignares, Dr Odine, Mr. Gresham and Dr. Onyejiaka, thank you for helping me get through these five years.

Shout outs to IPPP, A-E-Rho, Arkansans, mass comm. majors and the Honors floor of Rudolph in 98.

I can't forget 5th Psi Phi of Wilson Hall '97, a brief stint in Bellevue, and the remainder of campus life in Court Villa. I cherish my memories in those places, because of them, I learned how to make a meal out of Ramen Noodles.

To Sommer, Sara, Deledria and Kim, thank you for being the best roommates a girl could have. Through family problems and men advice, you have always been there to lend an ear.

To the CV CLIQUE, Res, Chris, Ben and especially Brienne, thank you for being the brothers that I never had. From Court Villa, to Charter Village, we know how to

kick it. Even though we're not as close as we used to be, know that I'll always have your backs. To Lo, Mr. CEO, you complete our circle of friendship. It was you

who taught me to stay on my guard. I used to think that I had everything together until I met you. I hope you find someone who can handle you, and truly appreciates who you are. Just be patient, PLAYERWAY ENT. will soon be a company to be reckoned with (just don't forget about us).

To the BSB 2002 crew, especially Marquez, Wayne, Eli, Tre', and John. We knew how to kick it and be diplomats at the same time. Thank you Dr. Beasley and Mama Watson for letting me go (Now I know what an aristocrat is). Dr. Beasley, don't worry, I won't forget where I came from, and I know to always help somebody else.

My girls, Rosalind, Kiana, Marilyn, Pebblin, Esther and Adah 434. Throughout everything, you have stood by me no matter what. Rosalind, whether you are a bio-chemist or a surgeon, I know you'll be successful. Marilyn, take care of my present for me (I'll be a good GM). To Esther, you are the best sister a girl could ever have. Although I worry about you sometimes, I know that you'll be okay. One day, I hope to see a continuous smile on your face like the good ole days. Even though sometimes I want to choke you, I love you to death and accept who you are. Pebblin, even though you're not here, I can still hear your voice giving me advice when I need it. Kiana, my p.i.c., I don't know what I'm going to do when we go our

separate ways. But, wherever you are, I'll always come visit. To my sis-STARS of OES, Adah 434. Once a sister always a sister. Thank you for teaching me what a true sister is, one who will always have your back NO MATTER WHAT. I don't want to single anybody out, cause I love you all the same. To Kenya Berry, I don't know how you feel about me, but you will and always will be my sister. If you ever need me and want to call, the numbers are still the same.

Last but not least *The Meter* staff. The fam of all families. Whenever I get my own corporation, I'm hunting you all down. A beezy, I never know what to expect from you, give us another controversial story to talk about. Raynata, the woman who helped me get through this year, thank you for talking to me at 1 p.m and 1 a.m. if I needed it. Tosha, I see so much of me in you, you may be soft spoken now, but honey that will change. Marcus, hit me on my hip sometimes, where you be at? Tre, I won't be surprised to find you on Wall Street. You are a successful Black man, which is what Black women want. Whenever you find Mrs. Hill, I want to be the first to know.

Sherpri, Emil, Greg, Tamika, and Jennifer hold down the legacy. Don't get stressed out Sherpri, it's only the beginning. Besides, during homecoming I'll need a place to stay.

Thomas, my protege', I guess our outcast's days are over. You took on a double roll in my life as a brother, and a best friend. Hold it down, in memory of me. Always have the working writer's backs like we did each other. I'll truly miss you Thomas, take care of C.C. for me.

So I guess this is good-bye, the girl from "the rock" has spoken. Forgive me for my length Tre', I have been here five years you know. •

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Do you have an interest in business, finance and you also
like to write?

If so, you could be a financial reporter for *The Meter*.

To apply contact Brandi Montgomery at 963-5652,
or stop by The Meter office and fill out an application.

Coming in
May 3-5
Riverstages
featuring
Erykah
Badu.

Community View

Calendar

Campus Calendar

April 24
B.L.A.C.K.'s "Food and Fun", Old Courtyard area, 11 a.m.

April 25
Hospitality Career Fair, FPCC, 10 a.m.

Wilson Hall's Ms. Big and Beautiful Pageant, Kean Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 26
Tigerfest, FPCC Courtyard or Kean Hall, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

April 27
Show Stoppers performance, Humanities Building Auditorium, 7 p.m.

April 30
Jazzy Lounge (talent show), Humanities Building Auditorium, 6 p.m.

May 1
TSU Campus Radio Block Party, Old Plaza 1p.m.- 3p.m.

May 1
Last Day of Classes

May 2-10
Final Exams

Community Calendar

April 4-May 10
An exhibit featuring two emerging Tennessee artists will be on display at the Tennessee Arts Commission Gallery. The exhibit, *The Child Within Us*, will focus on recent works by Anderson Kenny and Carroll Todd. The gallery is located at 401 Charlotte Ave., and is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

April 25-28
When a Woman's Fed Up! created by writer/director David Payton, will run nightly at 8 p.m. (Sat. 3 p.m. matinee) at the Bellsouth Acuff Theatre in Nashville. It is America's number one gospel play. Tickets are on sale at all Ticketmaster outlets, Ticketmaster.com, or can be charged by phone at 615-871-6779.

April 25
Nashville Diversity in Dialogue will hold an action forum with Sally Campbell from the National Study Circles Pomfret, Conn. This event will be held in the Laskey Building at the Scarritt-Bennett Center, 1104 19th Ave South. For more information about Diversity in Dialogue contact Becky Waldrop at 615-340-7453.

April 27
"Shop Till You Drop!!!" at the African American Women's Business Fair on TSU's downtown campus. Buy clothing, handbags, cosmetics, hats, ethnic gifts, prints, etc. This event is sponsored by the Rho Alpha Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. 10 a.m.

April 30-May 5
Universoul Circus- The best in urban family entertainment. The circus will be at the Ted Rodes Park in Nashville. For group sales call 1-800-316-7439. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or call 615-255-9600.

May 4
The National Kidney Foundation of Middle Tennessee is offering a free screening program for people at risk for kidney disease at the McFadden Community Center from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

May 6
The Crisis Intervention Center will hold a candlelight ceremony, Healing Through Remembrance, in the chapel of Christ Church Cathedral at 900 Broadway, Nashville to honor and remember the lives of those lost to suicide. 7 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Bill Herrick at 615-255-9600.

May 31
Howard University Episcopal/Anglican Chaplain the Reverend J. Carleton Hayden will lead a seminar on Black Episcopalians in Tennessee at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 615 6th Ave. South in downtown Nashville. 5 p.m.-7 p.m.*

Samuel F. Yette speaks at TSU

By **Tosha Jones**
Community View Editor

Author, educator and photojournalist Samuel F. Yette addressed many Gaité de Coeur Art and Study Club members as well as members of the Nashville community in the Ford Residential Complex April 14.

Gaité de Coeur, meaning Gay of Heart, celebrated its 80-year anniversary by holding a book signing and lecture at Tennessee State University. The topic the group celebrated March and April is "Tennessee Writers."

"We wanted to bring a distinguished Tennessee writer to lecture

our group," said Edwina Hefner, president of the club and wife of university President James A. Hefner. "We decided on Samuel Yette because of his contributions and talent in a variety of fields."

Yette conducted a book signing while many of the guests arrived for the afternoon celebration. The program began with a musical selection from the Athony J. Cebrun Strings led by director Regina Calloway, and then the reason for the occasion was given before the guest lecturer took the podium.

Yette briefly spoke of several Tennessee writers that preceded him and said that there is a disproportionate number of great journalists and writers that come from Tennessee; he mentioned such writers as Robert Churchwell, Joyce Dukes, Nikki Giovanni and Alex Haley. Yette noted that there is a certain spirit that exists within many Tennesseans and there is a will to share that spirit through the art of writing.

Yette continued his lecture with a short overview of his professional and personal life and he commented on the people and experiences that have helped him to shape his view of the world. He said that his desire to be with his wife is what saved him for so many years and that at an early age he became infused with a passion to find truth and tell its story.

"Most journalists tend not to think outside of the box, or outside of the mainstream," said Gethan Ward who works at *The Tennessean* and who also was an editor of *The Aleter*. "He inspired me because he has views that are not mainstream and he has been able to hold on to them for generations and is very vocal about them. He is trying to make a difference and that

is inspiring," he said. Yette is the author of *The Choice*, in which he reports on the drug war going on in America. He also stated that the majority of his work has focused on the physical and cultural survival of Black people. He said that there are people who wish to terminate the existence of Blacks and that they must form a survival strategy.

Yette entertained a variety of questions from the audience that requested his opinion on such issues as reparations, and on the idea that two Blacks,

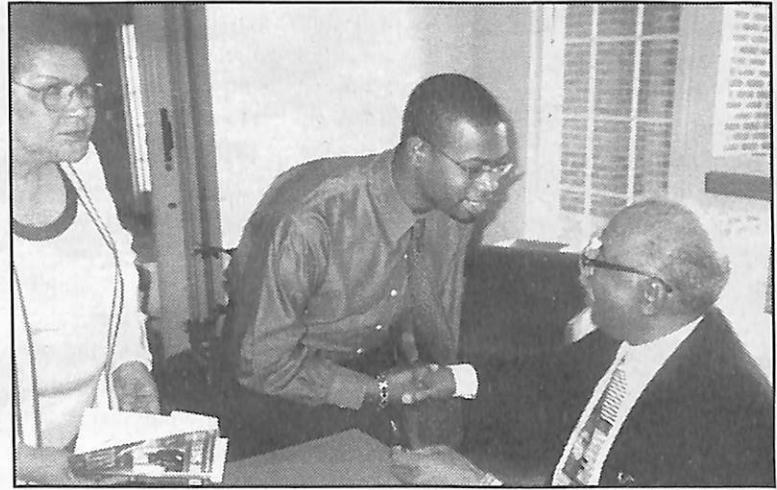


PHOTO BY TOSHA JONES

From past to present: The Aleter founder Samuel F. Yette greets the current Meter Editor Henderson Hill III.

Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell, are remaining vital parts of an administration that is carrying out injustices through our national defense program.

"We are due reparations," he responded. "But my fear is that we might become so reliant on them that we will fail to get up and do what we need to do as a people."

Regarding the questions pertaining to Rice and Powell, he said, "In some things you can not get out of once you've committed yourself. We are suffering from a certain level of interposition in this case."

He explained that the three things needed to make things happen in the world are 1) duly delegated authority, 2) responsibility and 3) resources. He said that even though Rice and Powell have specific responsibilities in foreign affairs, the authority and the resources belong to someone else.

Lynn Norris, a member of Gaité de Coeur, presented Yette with a bottle of fine wine to show the club's appreciation for his work and the afternoon concluded with a reception and additional book signing.

"It makes me feel like I am following in the footsteps of a living legend," said Editor in Chief of *The Aleter* Henderson Hill. "Knowing that someone of such great stature started at TSU and founded *The Aleter* shows that he can be a great role-model for students."

Yette wrote *Washington and Two Marches, 1963 & 1983*. He has worked as a reporter for various newspapers, served as associate editor of *Ebony*, was information director at Tuskegee Institute, was a Washington correspondent for *Newsweek* and a professor of journalism at Howard University. He is a TSU alumnus and the founder of *The Aleter*.

Community View

Dicks of the Pack

What issues would you like to be covered by The Meter in the next school year?



Lacey Kurttila
Nashville
Freshman
Business information systems major

"I would like more issues pertaining to difficult situations and questions covered by The Meter. It seems that the more college students are introduced to other's situations and problems, the better they tend to deal with their own situations ethically and responsibly. I would also like to be more updated on what religious groups meet regularly on campus, some of the topics they discuss regularly, and information on their functions during the year."



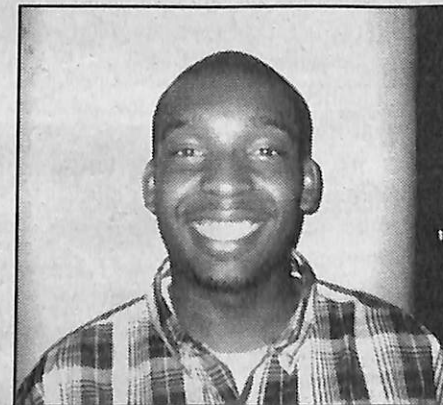
Ashli Brooke Colbert
San Antonio
Junior
English/pre-law major

"With a melting pot of different cultures, ethnicities, etc., I have yet to read the thoughts my pre-alumni have about their matriculation here at TSU. I think that it would be enlightening for myself as well as others to read...an article based on the overall atmosphere of the campus."



Monique Jobe
Lebanon, Tenn.
Sophomore
Computer Science major

"I would like to see more positive articles about things happening on campus, evaluations of staff from students point of view, and articles about outstanding students that really make a difference here at Tennessee State."



Janaar Harbour
Atlanta
Senior
Math major

"I would like to read the results of a survey dealing with what students feel our campus needs to make us competitors with neighboring schools here in Nashville and then with other HBCU's."

Feature

Director's Chair

The must see summer movies of 2002



Juwanna Man - An NBA player is banned from the league for his behavior and decides to try out for the WNBA dressed as a woman. He makes it in and you can only imagine the hijinks that will ensue. This one stars Miguel A. Nunez Jr. (*Life* - "Don't be scared") and Vivica A. Fox (*Two Can Play That Game*). The cross-dressing games begin May 10.

Unfaithful - From Adrian Lyne the director of *Fatal Attraction* comes a new tale of deceit. A husband discovers his wife has been having an affair and goes on a rampage. Richard Gere (*Primal Fear*) is the unlucky sap and Diane Lane (*The Perfect Storm*) is his wife. The lies start May 10.

Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones - This is the second installment in the prequel from George Lucas. Of course the usual hype surrounds this one and hopefully will give older fans a better thrill than the first episode, which played more to younger audiences tastes. Anakin Skywalker a.k.a. Darth Vader is now a young man. Hayden Christensen (*Life as a House*) takes over the role played by Jake Lloyd in the first film. He is being slowly pulled to the dark side by his feelings for Padme Senator Amidala played by Natalie Portman (*The Professional*) and other dark forces. He also finds himself in

(*Moulin Rouge*). On top of this Darth Sidious is trying to eliminate the Jedi. Look for Samuel L. Jackson (*Changing Lanes*) to break out his light saber in this

CIA analyst Jack Ryan. Rest assured this story takes place in Ryan's early days so they've recruited Ben Affleck (*Pearl Harbor*) to fill his shoes. He must stop a group of terrorist trying to start up the cold war again with Russia. How? They plan to sneak a nuclear bomb into the Super Bowl. Morgan Freeman (*High Crimes*) also stars. You biggest fears come to life on May 31.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUCASFILMS LTD.

Ewan McGregor as Obi Wan Kenobi and Hayden Christensen as Anakin Skywalker prepare for battle in *Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones* on May 16.

episode. Should be one of the biggest films of the summer if not year. The attack begins May 16.

Insomnia - This thriller directed by Christopher Nolan the mind behind last years most thought provoking movie *Memento*, stars Al Pacino (*Any Given Sunday*) as a celebrated police detective trying to capture the killer of a young girl. Robin Williams (*Death to Smoochy*) best known for his comedic turns is the man he's after. However there is a catch, after accidentally killing his partner Pacino is being blackmailed by Williams who witnessed it. Without sleep Pacino's character begins to lose his grip on reality. Hilary Swank (*Boys Don't Cry*) also stars. This one hits theaters May 24.

Enough - J to the Lo (*The Wedding Planner*) is back and this time she is not playing. This will remind some of the Julia Roberts film *Sleeping With the Enemy*. But there is a twist on the formula. Instead of simply getting away from her abusive husband she comes to the conclusion he has to die. This thriller hits theaters hard May 24.

The Sum of All Fears - Fans of Harrison Ford were sad to hear news that he would not be reprising the role of

Undercover Brother - Who do you call when

"The Man" is acting a plumb fool? Me! Well in this case Eddie Griffin (*John Q*) as Anton a secret agent working for the all Black B.R.O.T.H.E.R.H.O.O.D. agency who fights against this relentless enemy. Dave Chappelle (*Blue Streak*), Denise Richards (*Wild Things*) and Chris Kattan (*Corky Romano*) also star. Malcolm D. Lee who directed *The Best Man* helms this over the top caper hitting theaters May 31.

Bad Company - Chris Rock (*Pootie Tang*) is the last hope for a veteran CIA agent played by Anthony Hopkins (*Hannibal*) who must transform the twin of a murdered spy in nine days to negotiate a nuclear weapons deal with terrorists. Garcelle Beauvais (*The Jamie Foxx Show*) also stars. Decide if you like their company on June. 7.

The Bourne Identity - After a bullet riddled man washes up on shore with amnesia he begins to search for his true identity. Unfortunately for him there are people on his trail trying to finish the job. This one stars Matt Damon (*The Talented Mr. Ripley*) and Julia Stiles (*O*). Find out who this guy really is on June. 14.

See "Potential" on page 18



Alan C. Beard
A & E
Editor

Did you miss me?

Well Tennessee State University I've been on vacation. You know clearing my head trying to master this school thing. But now it's back to business as usual and boy do I have a treat for you. The sun is blazing, clothes are disappearing and the thirst for entertainment must be quenched. For some reason there seems to be an overabundance of must see films being released by studios this summer. Comic book heroes will be unveiled, a trilogy continued and signs will be explained. This summer's batch of potential blockbusters is sure to entice movie goers to run for shade and head to their local cineplexes. Here are some of the films I'll be sure to catch. Believe me, you don't want to miss this!

Spiderman - The web slinger finally makes his way to the big screen. It comes out in the early summer hoping to get a heads up on its competition. Tobey Maguire (*The Cider House Rules*) is Peter Parker the student who is bitten by a genetically enhanced spider. Kirsten Dunst (*Crazy/Beautiful*) is his love interest and Willem Dafoe (*Platoon*) plays his nemesis the Green Goblin. It will swing into theaters on May 3.

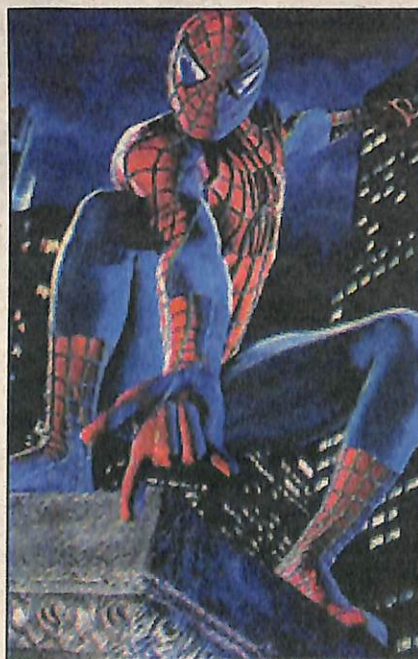


PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

Spiderman swings into theaters May 3.

conflict with his mentor Obi-Wan Kenobi played by Ewan McGregor

Feature

HOLLY BECH SOUNG-N.

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The Meter Special:

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Concert Tickets will be \$10

for

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Don't miss out on

the

End of the Year Concert

That will be talked about all summer

long!!!

In Memory of . . .



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAI FAMILY

Tu Mai

Tu Mai, a Tennessee State University student, was killed on April 14 in a motorcycle accident on

Tiger Belle Drive located next to the Queen Washington Health Center. The 21-year-old Nashville native was a junior computer science major. You might have seen him working in the McCord Hall Computer Lab on occasion. Our deepest condolences go out to Mai's family and friends. He had also attended Nashville Tech and Hillsboro High School. He

will be greatly missed.

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

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April 8, 2002

Mr. Henderson Hill, III
Editor-In-Chief
The Meter
Tennessee State University
3500 John A. McMillan Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37209

Dear Henderson:

I cannot thank you enough for the beautiful article written in my honor on March 27, 2002 by a member of your editorial team, Ms. Tosha Jones.

It was a wonderful and delightful gesture on the part of the student newspaper and I am very privileged to have been chosen as the topic of discussion. The article really captured my career at TSU and outlined many of my professional accomplishments. I fully appreciate the recognition from the student body and from President James Hefner and please know that I gave the students everything that I had to offer and I did so without reservation. Students do matter most!

I have been blessed, once again, with the "good fortune" of working under the direction of another progressive and talented leader. Dr. Jim Doti, President of Chapman University, is a brilliant leader of impeccable character and a "true" visionary. There are some interesting similarities between President Hefner and President Doti as they both hold the Ph.D degree in Economics and were appointed to their executive posts in 1991. Essentially, the common ingredient is that they are both amazing visionary leaders who believe in their institutions. I am proud to have served Tennessee State University for six and a half years and equally proud to become part of the Chapman University family.

As always, thank you for your kindness in my regard. Please know that you and your fellow students have my very best wishes for continued prosperity.

Respectfully yours,

Demetrius L. Greer
Director of Admissions

cc: President Jim Doti
President James Hefner

Community View

Organizations fight to abolish capital punishment

By Jennifer Mitchell
Community View Writer

The Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing and the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee have teamed up to get capital punishment abolished in Tennessee on behalf of death row inmate Abu-Ali- Abdur'Rahman. The unions are uniting as they await the decision of The United States Supreme Court's ruling on Abdur'Rahman's appeal for a new hearing on the grounds of prosecutorial misconduct.

Abdur'Rahman, formerly James Lee Jones, is a convicted killer sentenced to die by lethal injection for the 1987 murder of Nashville marijuana dealer Patrick Daniels. Devalle Miller, Abdur'Rahman's accomplice, identified him as the murderer and served six years for his role in the crime. Abdur'Rahman

was sentenced to die at 1 a.m. on April 10, but was granted a stay (an order or postponement) of execution by the U.S. Supreme Court, just two days before.

"We are a part of the coalition opposed to the death penalty," said Heddy Wienberg executive director of the ACLU of Tennessee. "We believe that (capital punishment) is discriminatory and most recently it has been brought to light how unjust and unfair the system is."

Abdur'Rahman is accused of stabbing Daniels four times in the heart and injuring Daniels' girlfriend Norma Norman. However, Abdur'Rahman said he has no memory of doing these things because of a psychological blackout his lawyers call the "product of mental illness and an abusive childhood," even though he confessed to committing the crimes during his sentence hearing. He now says he confessed to the crimes because he was confused and his trial

lawyer advised him to.

"Supporters of the death penalty can no longer turn a blind eye to the problems that exist," said Randy Tatel executive director of TCASK. "The modern-day death penalty experiment has failed."

Abdur'Rahman's attorneys, Brad MacLean and Bill Reddick, are accusing prosecutor Assistant District Attorney General John Zimmerman of withholding crucial evidence about the inmate's mental state that could have proved to the jury that Abdur'Rahman did not deserve the death sentence. The defense said the prosecutor falsely denied he had proof that Abdur'Rahman could be mentally ill. The prosecution argued that their files "show evidence of a personality disorder, not mental illness," and even that has not been ruled as conclusive.

"We're very grateful that the U.S. Supreme Court wants to look at our case," MacLean said in a Tennesseean report. "Finally, we may be getting the

kind of relief we have been asking for."

In signed affidavits, eight of the 12 jurors said knowing Abdur'Rahman's mental history and childhood might have changed the way he was sentenced and a federal judge called his lawyer's failure to inform the jury "a miscarriage of justice."

"(T)his issue raises ineffective counsel and prosecutorial misconduct," said Weinberg. "We are speaking out (and) increasing awareness ... (as) a part of a coalition to call for clemency so that the state does not pursue what we consider an injustice."*

Studies show that stalkers are rarely taken serious by victims

By Jennifer Mitchell
Community View Writer

While eight percent of all women and two percent of all men are stalked at some point in their lives, only 50-percent of stalkings are reported to police because victims often don't take their stalkers seriously, according to the National Institute of Justice Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Tennessee State University Police Department reported 18 intimidation complaints and no stalking complaints in the year 2000.

"I was never scared," said Nicole Rhodes, a junior social work major who was stalked her senior year in high school by a former intimate partner. "At first I thought it was kind of cute. I kept getting all these phone calls. Then the calls started getting real late, around two or three in the morning. After I didn't return his phone calls, he would pop up at my house unexpectedly. He wouldn't let me get off the phone and he would cry and stuff."

Freshman nursing major Fallon Calhoun was stalked by an out of town man she met at work.

"He was cool at first," she said. "Then he started making plans to take me out of town and coming up to (my job) unexpectedly. He left a message on my phone cursing me out and threatening me." Calhoun never reported her stalker to the authorities, because about two weeks after the man left town, the author-

ities called her.

"They called me asking me questions about him. They said it was really

ment, depending on whether physical harm is involved, is a prison term of one year and a fine of \$2,500.

"If a person is interested in you and you are not interested in them, let them know upfront instead of trying to let them down easy," said TSU crime prevention counselor Venus Allen. Allen has not counseled any stalking victims in her three weeks as crime prevention counselor. She has handled two harassment complaints, only one of which filed a police report with the TSUPD.

"Don't beat around the bush," she said. "Be very cautious of who you give your personal information to."

Although keeping a tight reign on personal information is a good idea, it doesn't necessarily guarantee safety. Stalkers get information about their victims in various ways, including digging through trash, using the Internet or the phone book, hiring detectives and stealing the address book of the victim's acquaintances.

"The most violent group of stalkers have personality disorders plus substance abuse problems," said Mary V. Shelton, TSU assistant professor of psychology. "The person most likely to become a stalker is a never married male who is a substance abuser and has a history of suicide attempts or other self injurious behavior."

Experts say stalkers fall into one of four categories: the delusional stalker who has had little or no contact with the victim; the predatory stalker who seeks to physically harm the victim; the vengeful stalker who seeks to pay back the victim

See "Signs" on page 15

Warning Signs of a Future Abuser

A push for quick involvement	Claims to "immediately" fall in love and want an exclusive commitment
Jealousy	Possessive and irrational; checks the mileage on your car, calls constantly, visits unexpectedly
Controlling	Interrogates you about where you've been and who you've talked to; keeps all the money
Unrealistic expectations	Expects you to be perfect
Isolation	Tries to cut you off from family and friends
Blames others for problems	Everything is some one else's fault
Blames others for his/her feelings	The abuser says "you make me angry" Instead of "I am angry"
Hypersensitivity	Is easily insulted
Cruelty to animals and children	Kills or punishes animals brutally or expects children to do things beyond their ability
"Playful" use of force during sex	Thinks the idea of rape is exciting, enjoys holding you against your will
Verbal abuse	Constantly criticizes or curses you
Rigid sex roles	Expects you to serve
Sudden mood swings	Goes from sweet to angry in a matter of minutes or seconds
Past battering	Admits to hitting women in the past, but blames on them
Threats of violence	Says "I'll kill you" or "I'll break your neck" but dismisses them as a part of normal conversation

Source: The project for Victims of Family Violence

CHART COURTESY OF THE PROJECT FOR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

serious," she said.

Tennessee law defines stalking as "the intentional and repeated following or harassment of another person as would cause that person to be in reasonable fear of being assaulted, suffering bodily injury or death." The maximum punish-

ment, depending on whether physical harm is involved, is a prison term of one year and a fine of \$2,500.

ment, depending on whether physical harm is involved, is a prison term of one year and a fine of \$2,500. Among homicides, current or former intimate partners kill one in three women, and five percent of men are killed by intimate partners.

Community View

Signs of potential stalkers

Continued from page 14

for some harm done; and the rejected/intimate partner stalker who wants to continue an intimate relationship.

An intimate partner who may become a stalker may not currently be an abuser but may show signs of becoming abusive. According to the Project for Victims of Family Violence, 15 warning signs indicate that a mate may become violent. These include, pushing for quick intimacy, controlling behavior and jealousy.

"In general, older people have a slight edge in picking up bad vibes, but they're no better than young people in actually doing something about it," Shelton said. "They get gut feelings but ignore them."

If you are being stalked, in addition to reporting the criminal activity to the police, you can file for an order of protection that could include prohibiting the stalker from committing or making threats of domestic abuse against you or

communicating with you.

Before a judge grants a restraining order, he must first be convinced of a case against the stalker. Victims advocates say that to build a case against a stalker you should keep all answering machine messages from the stalker, keep a journal of the times the stalker has bothered you, keep all threatening or disturbing mail and e-mail, take photographs of injuries or damage caused by the stalker, and get the names and phone numbers of witnesses to the stalking.

If you are not being stalked, experts say it still is important to use safety precautions, such as watching for the warning signs of abusive partners, not permitting yourself to be isolated or abandoned, and not making yourself an easy target.

"Always let people know where you are going," Allen said. "Make sure cell phones are charged and the bill has been paid. It's good to have a routine, but change it up to throw people off."•

The Meter
wishes everyone
a safe and
prosperious
summer.

Thanks,
The Meter Staff

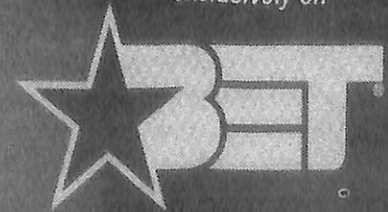
the spring break event to watch...

Ja Rule & Ashanti, Busta Rhymes, Master P



Ludacris, Missy, Tweet, Fabolous and many more.....!

exclusively on



Arts & Entertainment

TSU Campus Radio wins Black College Radio Station of the Year

By Jamarran E'mil Moss
A&E Writer

The Tennessee State University radio station won two awards at the 24th Annual Black College Radio Convention on April 12th & 13th in Atlanta. The station won Radio Station of the Year and Renia Parker was recognized as Music Director of the Year.

Black college radio stations from across the nation were nominated for several different categories and were voted for on-line at www.blackcollegeradio.com.

The honorary plaques that were given out at the Saturday night awards banquet were as follows: Station Manager of the Year, Reggie Miles of WKKC-FM (Kennedy-King College) Chicago; Program Director of the Year Christopher D. Slaton of WCSU-FM (Central State University) Wilberforce, Ohio; Music Director of the Year, Renia Parker of TSU Campus Radio, Nashville; On-Air Personality of the Year Ahmad Thorpe, WFVS-FM (Fort Valley State University) Fort Valley, Ga; Most Community Involvement, WFVS-FM (Fort Valley State University) Fort Valley, Ga; and Radio Station of the Year TSU Campus Radio, Nashville.

"(The TSU radio station staff) put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into the radio station," said Music Director of the Year award winner Renia Parker. "Even though Barry Gresham and I have our differences, I still respect him for who he is and what he does for the radio station."

Using an athletic parallel, TSU Campus Radio station manager Barry Gresham said, "I'm like the coach. The students are like the team. I draw out the plays, but the TSU radio staff are the ones who have to carry them out . . . without (the TSU radio staff) we would not be a success."

Other TSU nominees were Vince Smith for On-Air Personality of the Year and Brandon Bradford for Program Director of the Year. "Last year we didn't win station of the year," Bradford said. "It was my goal at the beginning of this school year to win station of the year and we did it."

Over one hundred staff members from Historically Black Colleges and University's across the nation were in attendance. The annual radio conference was organized by Clark Atlanta University. Professionals in fields of

communications facilitated workshops. Building and Maintaining your Campus Radio Station, Speaking on the Radio: Pronunciation and Microphone Techniques and The State of College Radio Today workshop took place along with a music symposium over the course of the weekend.

The radio station students in attendance also had the opportunity to participate in the live audience of the Friday, April 12 edition of CNN's Talk Back Live show that discussed the topic of "Female Suicide Bombers."

LaRita Shelby, a radio personality on the Tom Joyner Morning Show and star of the 1992 west-coast urban gang film *South Central*, gave a luncheon keynote address. "I can remember a couple of years ago at the Jack the Rapper broadcasting conference there was so much disorderly conduct going on with people getting arrested for fighting and destruction of property," Shelby said. "It is so beautiful to see so many Black people together in unity."

The TSU radio staff plans to win Radio Station of the Year at next year's conference and have been meeting weekly to revolutionize college radio with new ideas. Assistant program director Eric Capehart said, "(TSU campus radio) had a great accomplishment at the conference, and we plan to grow and achieve more."*

Are you ready to kick it one last time TSU? Well, come out and hang with TSU Campus Radio at the annual Fiesta Block Party in the Old Plaza May 1 from 1-3 p.m. Y'all ain't Ready!!!

Lyricist Lounge

Black Man, Black Man & Steps

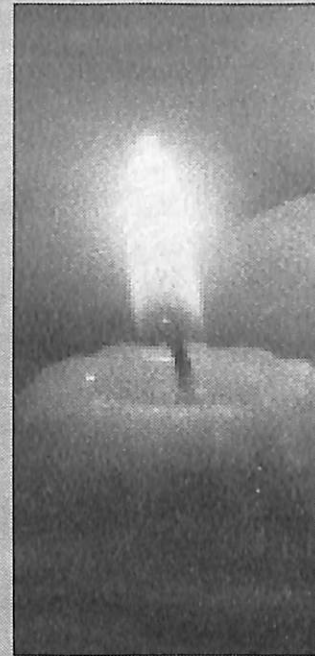
Black Man, Black Man

When asked Black Man, Black Man why are you so bitter,

By nature seems like the simple answer but there's so much more to consider.

In this rink of life I'm trying to keep up with only one skate.

It seems as if we are predestined for failure and this vicious cycle I can't escape.



If I ask for help I'm treated by the world as less than a man and thought of worst by my counterpart-The black woman.

Are drugs and alcohol my only temporary outlet for the pain I've suffered for all these years?

I feel I've paid for all my future sins yet I'm still left crying everyone's tears.

There has to be more to life than just drinking, selling drugs and getting high,

But my pride won't allow me to show my emotions

pub-



Trying to follow this "road to success" but we are without the necessary tools,

As a black man I'm playing this game of life but was only given half the rules.

If I have to step on some toes to get somewhere in this life than that's my stepping stone of the ground.

But you know what they say, the people you hurt going up, you see on your way down.

Why should I settle for meritocracy when all I see is the sky as my limit,

Being told all my life you will be a statistic I have a alibi for being timid.

Are my only options in life selling drugs, living on welfare or playing a sport?

How come I can't be the man with the gavel instead of the one who's begging for the mercy of the court?

I feel the weight of the world on my shoulders and sometimes, on my own two, it's hard for me to stand



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF BENTHALL AND JACK HEIKLE

licly, "so I gotta make this song cry." written by Jay-Z.

- Jeff Benthall

Steps

From the First to the Last as well as those in between are of such varied importance they guided us through all of the Times and Tribulations that have

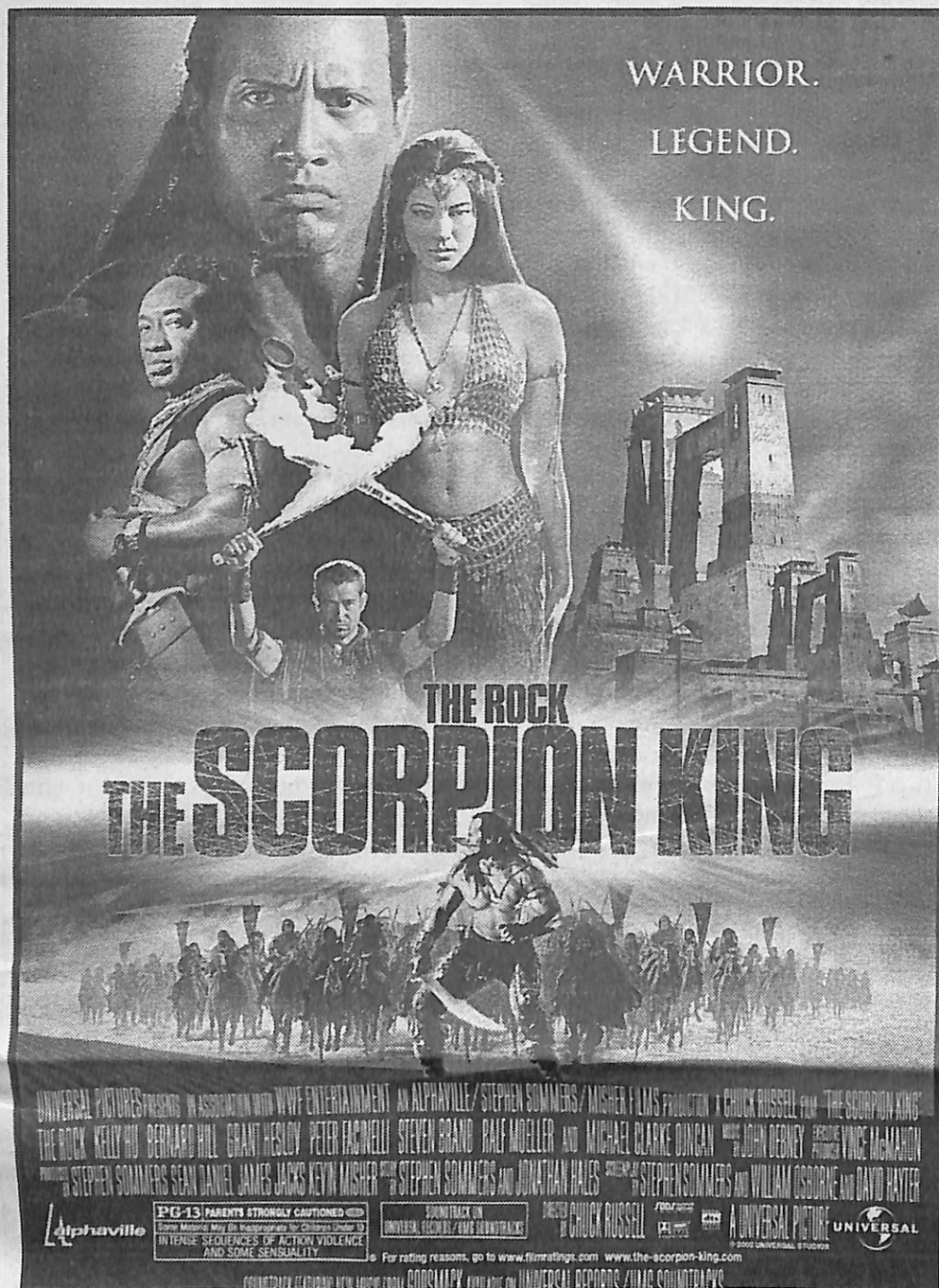
circled and encompassed us not all of these are Forward some are Backward also Downward some are Upward and yes, some are to the Side through it all these steps gradually increase in Stride as well as decrease in Stride with each new stride seek your Ideal perfection up until the last step that you take

so you may pass the Torch to the next Step taker.

- Jack Heikle*

Top: Jeff is second from the left. Bottom: Jack Heikle

Arts & Entertainment



part of his life. "When I was growing up I listened to everyone's music and would learn it by heart" Skripture said about his upbringing. "I listened for so long, I just started to make up my own rhymes." By the time his family moved to Clarksville he was entering into high school and, as luck would have it, he ran into a group of individuals that shared his love for music. One of which is up and coming rapper Flame, who produced several tracks on the album. With the friends he made, he began to master his gift of gab and craft it into scripted rhymes and fast firing verses.

By Gregory Brand
A&E Writer

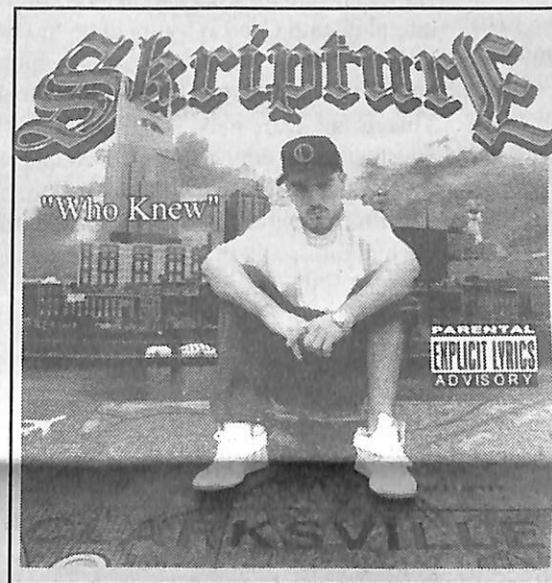


PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE FOY

Mike Foy

Skripture has a mission. That mission is to get his message out to the world through his music. He plans to accomplish this minor miracle with the release of his newest LP *Who Knew*. The freshman representing Clarksville, Tenn. came to Tennessee State University to gain knowledge necessary to better his life, but had his mind on his music since he heard his first rhyme.

His album, which hit the streets on April 19, promises to be the artist's most personal and thoughtful work to date.

Breaking down barriers and setting records straight are his direct objectives and he does it well in his performances. Skripture, a.k.a. Mike Foy, has been making appearances around the Nashville area for a while building a following of fans and making loads of connections that could help him advance his career from local hip-hopper to international superstar.

The 20-year old emcee moved to the south from Connecticut when he was a preteen, and even then music was a big

Influenced by the likes of Tribe Called Quest to his idol LL Cool J, he wants to give a theme of realness to an over-flossy hip-hop climate.

"I want to give a real message," Skripture said. "Most rappers only talk about their ice and diamonds and how many girls they've had. Don't get me wrong I talk about it too, but my entire album doesn't revolve around that."

Skripture comes to make his point heard despite any prejudices he may face. Being the minority on a historically Black college and university campus, he gets a first hand look at real urban culture that some of his

hip-hop peers might not have had the chance to see. He has a love for music that is shown in the dedication put forth to release this album.

All expenses put forth in production, design, record conception, distribution, and studio time were taken care of by the artist. He put his all into the album and it shows in the overall smooth production, original cover, and case design. Skripture set out to deliver a real and complete album and he accomplished his goal. Though not as gripping as the title suggests, this emcee could very well take you by surprise and America by storm.*

Mis-Education of the Negro

WHY ARE SCHOOLS FAILING US?

"One of the most frequently heard complaint's in the closing years of the 20th century was that schools were failing. If public schools are failing, they are failing only Whites, Asians, Hispanics, and other ethnic immigrants. Schools do not now nor did they ever fail in what they were designed to do for Black children: create a labor class in service to White society."¹

TRANSLATION:

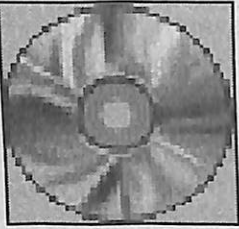
"Their schools ain't teachin' us what we need to know to survive. Their schools don't educate, all they teach the people is lies."²

"Regardless of their physical location racial/ethnic makeup, schools across America had to teach their children European-American values....Ignored by Lincoln, Blacks were never educated to be owners, managers, or members of the intellectual class. They were educated to be the workforce for those overclasses."¹

1. Dr. Claude Anderson from "PowerNomics: The National Plan To Empower Black America"

Arts & Entertainment

Compact DISCUSSIONS



Cee-Lo Green and His Perfect Imperfections

Cee-Lo - 4

After years of laying down several off the chain guest spots and giving his piece to the hip-hop game through word and song in the groundbreaking hip-hop quartet Goodie Mob, Cee-Lo is ready to officially take the spotlight for himself.

With hip-hop heroes Goodie Mob on hiatus, the group's harmonizing and insightful emcee takes flight alone in his debut solo project *Cee-Lo Green and His Perfect Imperfections*. The funky musical gem gives a genuine look at one of hip-hop's most individual and soul-filled artist.

Cee-Lo manages to touch all bases with his eclectic blend of urban grooves along with dirty south sensibility.

This fact is most clearly displayed in his fast firing flow on *Big Ole Words (Damn)*. On this instant classic Cee-Lo shuts down the Northern notion that says Southern rappers can't rhyme. *Revolution is a mind state! Not mere words, but emo-*

tion! Which is essential, influential! Proving my people's potential! Militants and innocents in sight! Listen to God then write.

He also manages to show that trademark free spirit and wild personal style on his dance floor friendly jams *Closet Freak* and *Microhand* a clear classic in, which Cee-Lo has a lyrical battle with long time friend and fellow Dungeon Family member Andre 3000.

The album gives any listener good and real music that makes for great replay value. The album's only weakness comes into play with Cee-Lo trying to go too far too fast. Some of the songs don't quite connect as well as the album's solid jams. This is an extremely small draw back considering it only happens a couple of times (the album has about 22 tracks).

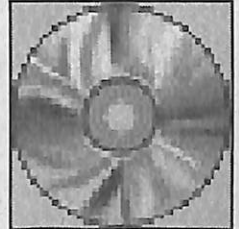
From front to back the highly original and funky album is solid and definitely worth a listen.

Southern Hummingbird
Tweet - 4

Break out your portable headsets, stereos and automobile adapters. The 2002 spring season is offering more than just sweat and sunshine. A new beat is in the air and a new flavor in your ear is coming to you from the sweet chirps of Tweet, Elektra's hottest new R&B recording artist. As a close friend of Missy Elliot, Charlene "Tweet" Keys made her first significant appearance on the scene singing background for Missy's third album *So Addictive*. Tweet's vocals laced tracks such as *Old School Joint*, *Take Away*, and *X-tasy*. After proving herself vocally, Tweet released her debut album *Southern Hummingbird* on April 2. It is co-produced by Timbaland and Missy and displays the artist's unique "tweet" as well as her songwriting and guitar playing skills. The smooth ballads of the album unfold like silk as her words tell tales of real life love experiences, joys, and sorrows. The musical journey begins with the intro *So Much to Say* in which Tweet's spoken words tell how she's been visited by desperation but longs to be lulled away by a "southern hummingbird." The sultry sounds contin-

ue as Tweet hums stories about her ex-lovers in *Smoking Cigarettes* and *Always Will*. The album's tempo escalates with the dance beats of *Boogie 2nite*, reggae influenced style of *Oops*, and the disco groove of *Make Your Move*. The remainder of the album drifts back into the dreamy realm of soulful splendor. Duets on the album include *Best Friend* featuring Bilal, *Oops* featuring Missy Elliot, and *Sexual Healing* featuring Jade, which is the remix to *Oops*. This joint clears up any misconceptions about the subject of the song. Enchanting music, thought-provoking lyrics and solid vocals intertwine to produce a true groove CD.

Although some of the ballads possess similar sounds, the tracks are perfect to listen to whether you're kicking it with that special someone, unwinding solo after a busy day or drifting off into a deep sleep. *Southern Hummingbird* is definitely worth your dollars and your attention. So the next time you hit Tower Records or Sam Goody, keep your eyes open for this sweet southern tweet. **Gregory Brand-**



Potential blockbusters highlight films coming to a theater near you this summer

Continued from page 12

Minority Report - Want to make a sure fire box office hit. Well here's a formula for you: Team director Steven Spielberg (*A.I.*) and super star Tom Cruise (*Vanilla Sky*) in a sci-fi special effects driven movie and release it smack dab in the middle of the summer. Plot, in the future crimes can be stopped before they occur. Cruise plays a cop framed for a murder that has yet to happen and goes on the run to prove his innocence. The chase begins June 21.

Mr. Deeds - If you haven't seen the trailer for this one then you're missing out. Adam Sandler (*Big Daddy*) is back and this time he's inherited interest in a media corporation. Being from a small town he starts to incorporate some of his small town ways into the business. Meanwhile a curious reporter is trying to find out just who he really is. Winona Ryder (*Lost Souls*) also stars. The laughs start June 28.

Men In Black II - Will Smith (*Ali*) and Tommy Lee Jones (*Rules of Engagement*) are back to rid the universe of those pesky extraterrestrials in the sequel to the 1997 summer blockbuster.

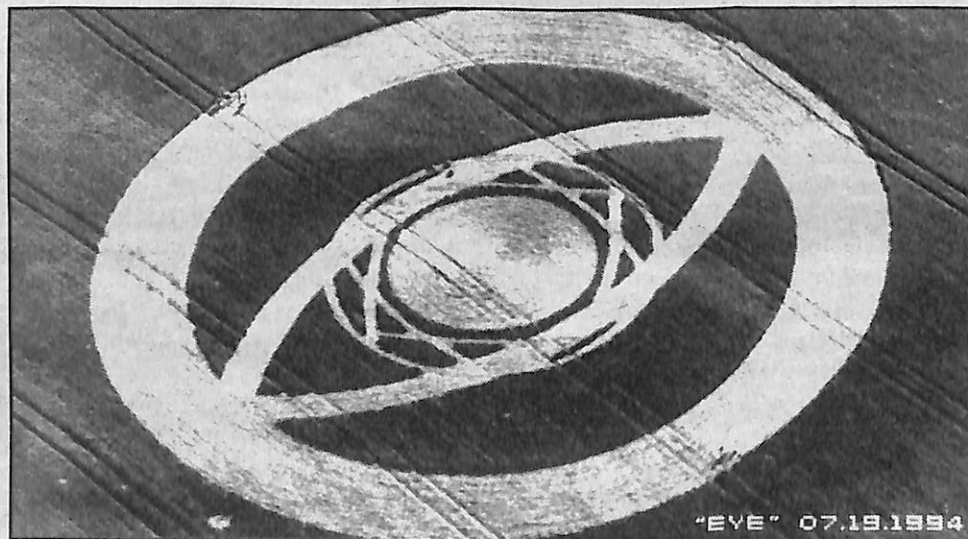


PHOTO COURTESY OF TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

Find out what this sign means on Aug. 2.

Agent J (Smith) needs help and goes out to find Agent K (Jones) who has been living a normal life as a postal worker. Well he has to first restore K's memory after zapping him at the end of the first film. There is much work to be done and Big Willie is the king of the July fourth weekend, that's why this one blasts into theaters on July 3.

Austin Powers in Goldmember - Much fuss has been made over the tiff

between New Line Cinema the distributor of the Austin Powers franchise and MGM the distributor of the James Bond films over use of the title *Goldmember*, which is similar to *Goldfinger*. Well they came to an agreement and everyone seems happy. This third installment goes a little something like this. Dr. Evil (Mike Myers) and Mini-Me (Verne Troyer) have somehow escaped from a maximum-security prison and the duo team up with the nefarious Goldmember. Together they

formulate a plan for what else but world domination. And this particular scheme requires a large amount of time-travel, and kidnapping Austin Powers' father, England's master spy, Nigel Powers played by Michael Caine (*The Cider House Rules*). As Austin chases Dr. Evil, Mini-Me and Goldmember through time, he stops in 1975 to "connect" with an old girlfriend, detective Foxy Cleopatra (Beyonce Knowles), and requests her help to track the villains and save his father. Check this one out on July 26.

Signs - The plot line of this film is perfectly vague as most of M. Night Shyamalan's (*The Sixth Sense*, *Unbreakable*) films are until you see them. There is an unexplainable phenomenon in the form of crop circles on the Philadelphia farm of Mel Gibson's (*We Were Soldiers*) family. That's about all I can tell you. Discover the meaning behind it all on Aug. 2.

Well TSU it's been a real interesting school year. I wish you all a safe and happy summer. Make sure you check some of these movies out and any others that might catch your eye. Check your local listings for show times and go experience the magic that only films can give us. •

Sports

Talkin I.S.H.

My Hero



Marcus Norris
Sports Editor

T'was the night before finals, and all through the night, students were making their cheat sheets...I can't find a rhyme, oh well forget it.

Welcome back, live from the land of the free and the home of slave's graves. I know some of you have been wondering where my article has been. I won't tell you all my business, just two scary words, child support. Those of you who've got a "baby-mama" (yeen-know?) understand what I'm talking about. The girl has me working like those Jamaicans on "In Living Color" with 10 different jobs, trying to keep little Marcus in new Jordans (and I swear he looks more and more like the mailman every day).

There are some questions in life that we ponder, not knowing whether we'll ever find the answers. Like, why does every crack head on Jefferson St. have a dog? Or better yet, how come the only way Black people can be considered for an Oscar is by playing a crooked cop or getting taken by Billy Bob Thornton (what's my name, what's my name, what's my name?). Or even better than that, what is Black History month? My favorite one though is one that has bothered me all through my childhood on to my adult life, why do they keep messing with Darryl Strawberry?

Now I know there have been quite a few happenings in the wonderful world of sports since the last time Talkin I.S.H. graced the recycled papers that *The Aletter* is printed on. Memphis took my idea for Nashville and ran with it, getting the Mike Tyson-Lennox Lewis fight to be held in the Pyramid on June 6. There have been conflicting stories about the NCAA Tournament results.

I'm still trying to figure out whether or not the Maryland Terrapins won it or the Duke Blue Devils lost it. Tiger, pronounced like "Tigger", rhymes with...I won't say it, won his third Master's Championship, and a few of our Tennessee State Tiger's football players are getting prepared for the NFL draft.

But for me, no news was more important than hearing my childhood hero, Darryl Strawberry, was arrested

again for violating his probation. He didn't even smoke any crack this time. In fact he had been clean for the last ten months prior to his arrest (on his 40th birthday nonetheless). His main violation according to court documents was having sex with a female resident of a drug treatment center he was in. The man had been in the center since last May after disappearing from another treatment center in Tampa, Fla.

Now I'm not saying that my man hasn't snorted enough lines to chalk every baseball field in America, but does that really make him a criminal? It may make him a dope fiend maybe, but a criminal... come on now. On top of that, how can you throw somebody in jail for getting a little affection?

What kind of probation was he on that he was forced to stay in a complex with a bunch of women who knew he was a major league ball player for 10 months, and he can't have sex or he'll be put back in jail with a bunch of men? Yet as I'm typing this, O.J. Simpson is on an unnamed golf course in Florida trying to make par. What is that about?

- What's Crackin? : By the (Lakers) time you read this, the NBA (Lake Show) Playoffs will (Liz-a-kers) likely be underway. Now I'm not going waste your valuable time (Shaq and Kobe) with any half-baked predictions on how it'll all (Purple and Gold) end up. I just hope that the games are exciting, the (Jack Nicholson) players play hard, and may the best team win. (L-to-the-A-to-the-K-E-R-S).

- Favorite Athlete of the Moment: Allen Iverson. The Trenchcoat Mafia took less shots than my boy (with better accuracy) but he's still my choice for MVP. The NBA's leading scorer for the third straight season injured his left (non-

shooting) hand over a month ago with his Philadelphia Sixers still struggling to make the playoffs and hasn't played since.

At that time the Sixers had been 0-8 when Iverson did not play. Instead of getting all "big time" on his teammates by staying at home and chillin' while his team fought for playoff position (VC where you at), the big homie was at all the games. Wearing the baggy sweat suits and the platinum piece to match he watched scrubs like Eric Snow, Dikembe Mutumbo, and the never underweight Derrick Coleman win games they had no business winning, being their biggest cheerleader. They went 7-7 down that stretch. Now he's back in time to make a run in the playoffs. I'm picking the Sixers to get beat in the Finals again (hey, at least they'll make it).

- Real Talk: When SLAM magazine issued out their annual SLAMMYS, they came up with a new award called the Allan Houston Award, named after and awarded to the New York Knicks shooting guard. The award is for "The player who puts up decent numbers, but doesn't justify his pay and rarely comes up big when it counts." They also said, "The only time 'One Hundred Million Dollars' sounded more ridiculous was when Dr. Evil said it.

- Sports Rap: Beanie Siegel on the new Jay-Z song, *Guess Who's Back* also featuring Scarface. *Play the corners like a safety watchin traffic switch! Young'n never pump fake and you'll get past the blitz.*

While we're on the subject of rappers and sports (no Shaq doesn't count), I'd just like to say that the game is over! You've got Styles from the LOX spittin' on the AndI commercial for the new KG's, Scarface (the last real gangsta rapper) on Steve Francis' Reebok (*All Day I Dream About Sex*) commercial, and the hardest song out right now is Jadakiss' and AI's Reebok commercial. It's getting uglier than the new Kobe's out here (I

hear he's trying to decide between P. Diddy and Puffy for his next commercial).

- Do You Realize?: Detroit Piston big man Ben Wallace, the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year became the shortest player in NBA history to lead the league in rebounds per game (13.0) and blocks (278) at only six foot seven. But did you know who was responsible for the development of the sixth year pro? None other than Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant. Yep, back in a 1997 pre-season game between the Lakers and Wallace's then team, the Washington Bullets, Bryant took off from the free-throw line and leaped over Wallace for an emphatic slam-dunk. Ever since then Wallace has been the best player in the league at standing under the glass and catching balls (get it?).

- Sidebar: Do they really think that by incarcerating Straw in a real prison with a bunch of men that it will keep him sober and sex-free?

- And Finally: I actually got the chance to meet Darryl Strawberry when I was younger. It was back in 1987 in Pasadena Calif. (little city north of Los Angeles that never gets any shoutouts). It was at a baseball camp that he was sponsoring. On that day, I got to see up close and personal somebody who I held in such a high regard. People nowadays look at me like I'm crazy for saying things like this about a man who's been arrested numerous times for his inability to control his addiction. I mean, I actually thought higher of him than I did of Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson combined. Further proof to my theory that everybody between the ages of 30-40 yrs old, whether they admit it or not, snorted dope at least once in their lives. I blame it on the 80's.

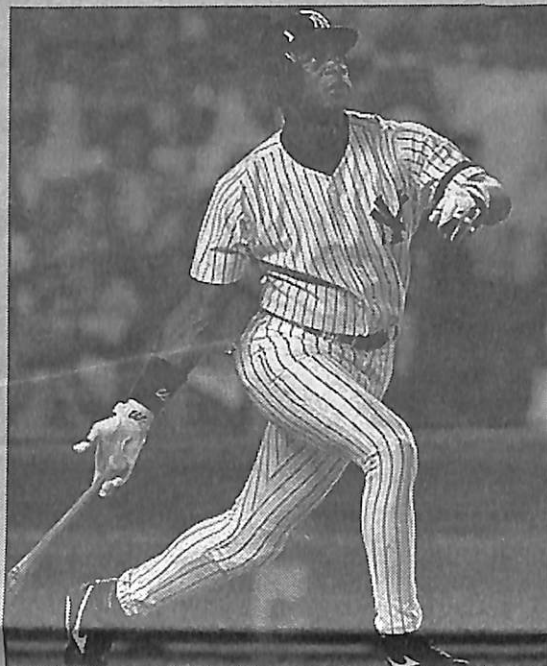


PHOTO COURTESY OF DARRYL STRAWBERRY ONLINE

Darryl Strawberry in his glory days.

Sports

Sports Briefs

By Tamika L. Jefferson
Sports Writer

New softball coach up for the challenge

The Lady Tigers softball team, under new head coach Joyce Maudie, faces a tough non-conference schedule, along with even more demanding Ohio Valley Conference competitors during this rebuilding year.

Last year the Lady Tigers finished 13-26 overall and 8-13 in OVC conference play. They placed fifth in the regular season, the best season ever in the sport.

The team returns six lettermen. Leading the returnees are senior infielders Antoinette Armstrong of Columbia, Tenn. and Casundra Jo Sharp of Fayetteville, Tenn.

The team is working toward a chance to compete for the OVC championship, which will be held in early May.

The Lady Tigers are 9-25 overall and 3-11 in OVC conference play.

"We are taking it one day at a time," Maudie said. "We have been slowed by illness and injuries thus far, and we are going to be thin."

The team's depth is a big concern of the coach. Maudie feels the team will have to pick up the pace offensively, but that their pitching is solid. Sophomore Shana Hicks of Smyrna, Tenn. and freshman Tarah Evanisko of San Jose, Calif. handle the pitching responsibilities.

"Our goals are to play hard, play smart and play together and hopefully, we will improve every time we take the field," Maudie said.

Teresa Lawrence-Phillips, interim athletic director, invites people to come out and watch the games. She said the softball team is so exciting to watch.

"I am real pleased with the new coach," Phillips said. "Coach Maudie didn't have ample enough time to recruit but I see a tremendous improvement and a lot of stability."

Tigerbelles preparing to defend Outdoor Championship

The Tennessee State University Tigerbelle track team is making solid progress as the team works toward defending its Ohio Valley Conference Outdoor Championship.

Tigerbelle head coach Chandra Cheeseborough received the 2001 OVC Outdoor Coach of the Year award as the Tigerbelles claimed the outdoor championship last spring.

As a member of TSU's Sports Hall of Fame, Cheeseborough says she knows what it takes to secure another championship.

"It's going to take commitment and staying focused," Cheeseborough said. "Maintaining their confidence and staying injury free is one key to winning another outdoor championship."

Cheeseborough also received the 2002 OVC Indoor Coach of the Year award after leading the Tigerbelles to their first ever OVC Indoor

Championship. TSU became the fourth different team in years to win the OVC's Indoor Championship.

"The track team is great," said Teresa Lawrence-Phillips, interim athletic director. "They are tearing folks up on the track."

Cheeseborough feels that after the team accomplishes their personal goals, then those goals will tie into the team's goal. The overall goal for the team is to qualify the athletes for NCAA competition.

Tigerbelle Monique Demmons has the best time in the OVC this season in the 1,500 meter with a time of four minutes and 33 seconds. Alexandria Wilson has the best times in the OVC this season in the 200-meter and 400-meter with times of 24 minutes and 24 seconds and 54 minutes and 90 seconds.

"We know we have depth and everyone is looking to knock us down," said Cheeseborough. "However, when we step on the track they are going to know the Tigerbelles are here and ready."

TSU golf team opens eyes

The Tennessee State University Men's Golf team is preparing for two upcoming tournaments. The first event is the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament in Padukah, Ky. from April 28 to May 1. The National Minority Championship in St. Lucie, Fla. is the next event in line for the golf team. It will be played on the PGA Reserves May 12-14. All the Historically Black Universities will be invited to partici-

pate in the event. ESPN also will be there broadcasting live.

The men's golf team consists of five players: freshmen Robert Dinwiddie, Stu Michaels and Jordan Robert, sophomore Mark Searle and senior Kristofer Plahn.

Dinwiddie and Michaels are listed as the two top golfers in the OVC and the nation. The only other OVC college that ranked is Morehead State.

The team's leader in stroke average is Michaels with an average of 75.0. Dinwiddie is right behind him with an average of 75.6.

"This is an outstanding group on the golf course and in the classroom," said Catana Starks, golf coach. "The talent is remarkable and they have represented TSU well throughout the country."

The criteria for joining the golf team is a video of your golf swing, a list of tournaments in which you placed with your score and a resume of your academic and golf accomplishments.

TSU does not have a women's golf team.

"We are currently planning to have a women's golf team, no later than the spring of 2003," said interim athletic director Teresa Lawrence-Phillips. "We have to prepare a budget and recruit a coach and women golfers."

Although the team hasn't won all of the six regular season games they've had, there are always the individual accomplishments.

"This is by far the best squad I have ever coached," Starks said. •

Sports Spotlight

Orlando Dotson

By Tamika L. Jefferson
Sports Writer

The word "tackle" is most often associated with football. Though not a bad association, in this case "tackle" is used to describe how Tennessee State University's defensive tackle, Orlando Dotson, maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average, despite exhausting football practices and games.

Dotson, a senior majoring in graphic design, said he loves to read current business and graphic magazines to stay aware of what's going on in his field.

"A lot of my success comes from my talent," Dotson said. "When I get out in the real world, I want to be knowledgeable about the industry."

Dotson hails from Jackson, Miss.,

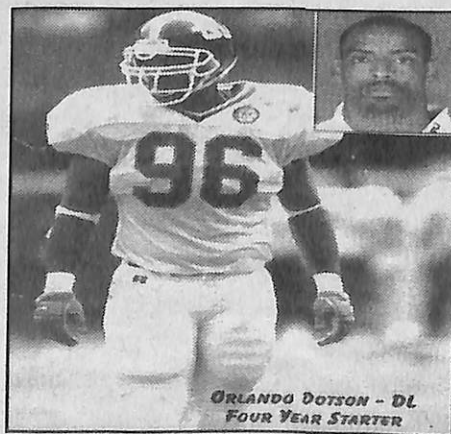


PHOTO COURTESY OF TSU ATHLETICS

Orlando Dotson

where he attended Province High School. His football career began in elementary school where he played peewee football, advanced to high school where he played defensive end, and brought him TSU.

A typical day for Dotson begins with

classes from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. In between and after classes, he works out to preserve his physique and endurance. However, he also works extremely hard on his drawings and tackling his studies.

Dotson makes playing football and maintaining a 4.0 GPA seem simple, but it can be difficult.

"Finding the energy to push yourself to complete the tasks and assignments is hard," he said. "I don't know how I do it, but it has to be done, so I do it."

Dotson's ability to give his all in his endeavors has inspired some teammates.

"As a person and as a teammate, Orlando always gave one hundred percent in life and on the field," said Lawrence Smith, a health/physical education graduate student. "That is something I can really appreciate in him."

Dotson tries not to embody the neg-

ative stereotypes connected with being an athlete, such as drinking and partying. He advises newcomers not to fall in those categories either.

"Stay true to your own personality," he said. "Don't get caught up in the college parties. The parties will be there. Don't try to do things out of the ordinary especially if it's harmful."

Dotson's future goals consist of owning his own home and having a family. He wants to be successful, not necessarily rich, and content.

"I am preparing my body for NFL camps, but it's not my life," he said. "If the opportunity doesn't come knocking, I will get a good job, stay in shape and make my wife happy." •

Sports

And 1 Street-Ball Legends wow Gentry Center crowd

By Max-EI Saffold
Sports Writer

The world of playground basketball invaded the Gentry Center as the



Street-ball Legends from the And1 Mixtapes faced the New Nashville All-Stars Saturday, April 20 at Tennessee State University.

The Legends team barely escaped with an 81-80 victory, as "Headache" buried an eight-foot jumper to give them the lead with seven seconds remaining. Even though this wasn't the most exciting game ever played, there were enough highlights to possibly put parts of this game on the next *And 1 Mixtape*.

The *And 1 Mixtape* series is a collection of videos featuring highlights from basketball games played at some of America's most popular playgrounds from New York to Los Angeles by street-ball's most exciting players. The *And 1 Mixtape* series is currently on volume five, and the game was in town as part of the nationwide And1 Mixtape Tour.

A group of college players from around the area, including former Tiger basketball players Jamie Roberts and Kyle Rolston, had their ankles taped and re-taped to face a team of seven "legends" from the And1 Mixtape series. The Legends team featured Lil' Pat from Washington DC, Breakdown from Connecticut, and "PR", the infamous Headache, Half Man-Half Amazing, Beast, and 7 & Change, all from New York.

The buzz about the game was much more exciting than the game itself. There was a lot of pushing and shoving from the Nashville All-Stars as they made their best efforts not to be the first patients in the new broken ankles unit at Meharry, but that only helped for so long.

Headache did most of the damage for the And1 Legends, starting off with a crossover at about the top of the key that ended up in a behind-the-back alley-oop to Beast. He entertained the crowd by slapping a couple people, Harlem-shaking, and giving Belmont's Tony McFadden the finger. The best play of the first half was when Breakdown beat his man with a light-

ning-quick crossover then threw up an up-and-under shot that turned into an alley-oop to Half Man-Half Amazing.

The Nashville All-Stars had their own share of highlights, the most exciting was an alley-oop throw down by Eastern Kentucky's DeMarcus

Doss that may have left a

"Spalding" imprint on Half Man-Half Amazing's forehead.

Outside of these few highlights the game was pretty slow. The ball was kicked so many times it looked like they were trying to make it in Major League Soccer, not the National Basketball Association. With the exceptions of Headache, Breakdown, and Lil' Pat, it was hard to see what was so legendary about these "legends".

Attention all TSU Students: If you have a genuine interest in writing for the The Meter next school year then be in attendance April 29 in Suite 304 in the Floyd-Payne Campus Center at 6:15 p.m.

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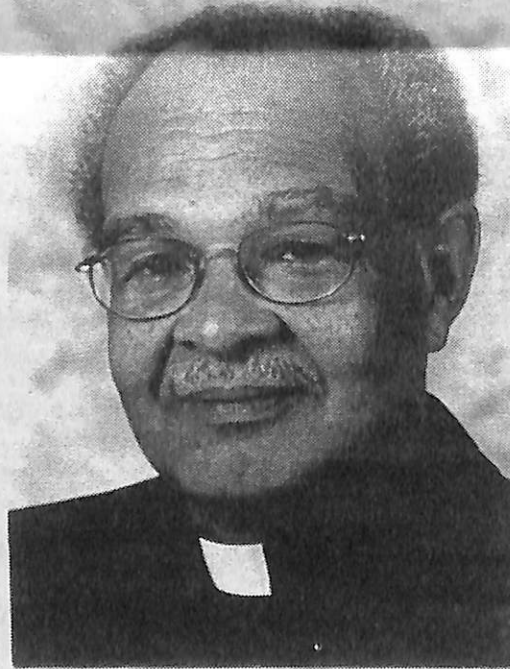
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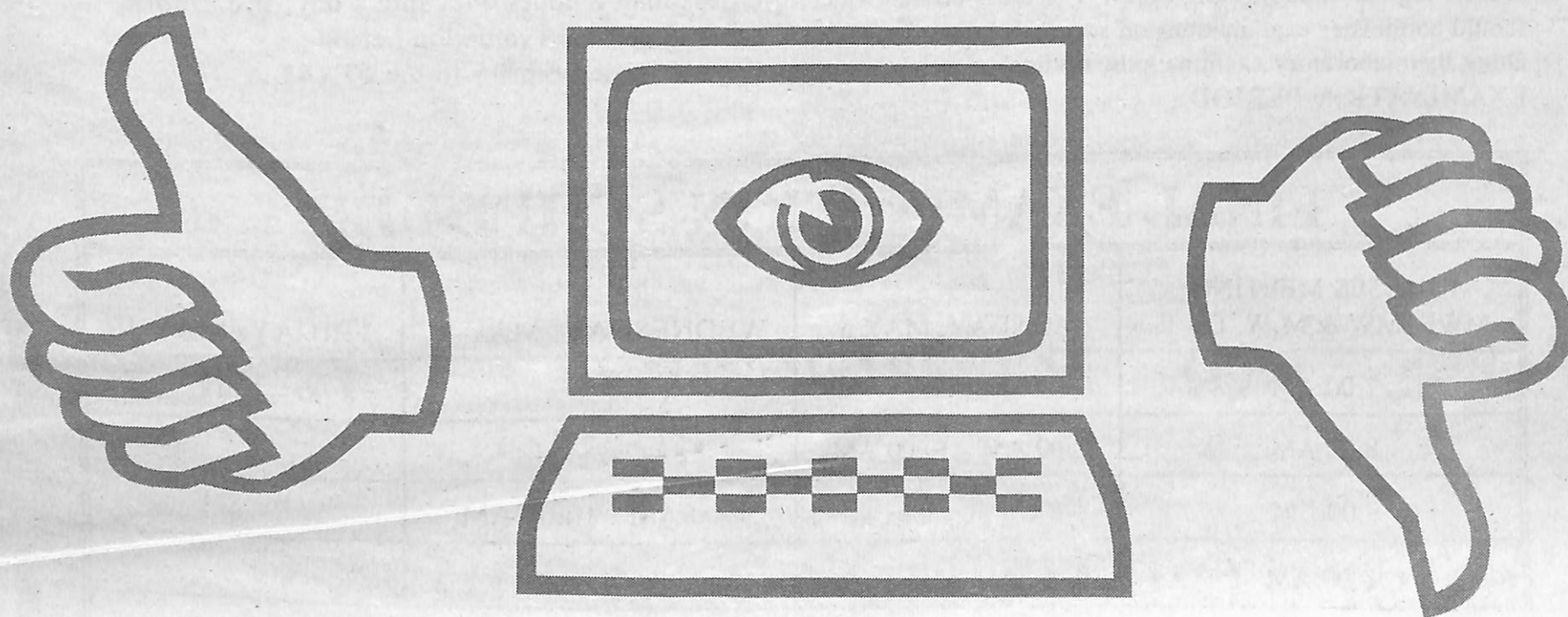
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- All responses are confidential.**

COMMON EXAMINATIONS: CHEMISTRY 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM TUES/THURS MAY 7,9

DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES: 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM FRIDAY MAY 3

MATHEMATICS 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM FRIDAY MAY 3

SAT/SUN CLASSES: EXAMS ARE HELD DURING CLASS PERIOD MAY 4,5

All classes beginning at 4:40 and after will have final examinations during **FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD** at their regular class meeting times. For those classes which meet less than 2 hours on a single day, instructors should administer examinations on successive days to provide the two hour final evaluation period.

Other than laboratory examinations, no final examinations are to be administered prior to the **FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD**

FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

CLASSES MEETING MWF, MW & M,W, OR F	MONDAY, MAY 6	WEDNESDAY, MAY 8	FRIDAY, MAY 10
7:00 AM			8:00 - 10:00 AM
8:00 AM	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM		
9:00 AM		8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	
10:00 AM	10:10 AM - 12:10 PM		
11:00 AM		10:10 AM - 12:10 PM	
12:00 PM	12:20 PM - 2:20 PM		
1:00 PM		12:20 PM - 2:20 PM	
2:00 PM	2:30 PM - 4:30 PM		
3:00 PM		2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	
4:00 PM			2:30 - 4:30 PM
CLASSES MEETING TR, T, R	THURSDAY MAY 2	TUESDAY MAY 7	THURSDAY MAY 9
8:00 AM	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM		
9:25 AM		8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	
10:50 AM	10:10 AM - 12:10 PM		
12:15 PM		10:10 AM - 12:10	
1:40 PM	12:20 PM - 2:20 PM		
3:05 PM, 4:00 PM	2:30 - 4:30, PM		