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PAGE 5: The 78th Student Government Association Administration gives a Big Blue welcome to the incoming freshman class.

PAGE 6: Graduating seniors on the football team were honored in front of their friends and families at the annual luncheon.

THE METER

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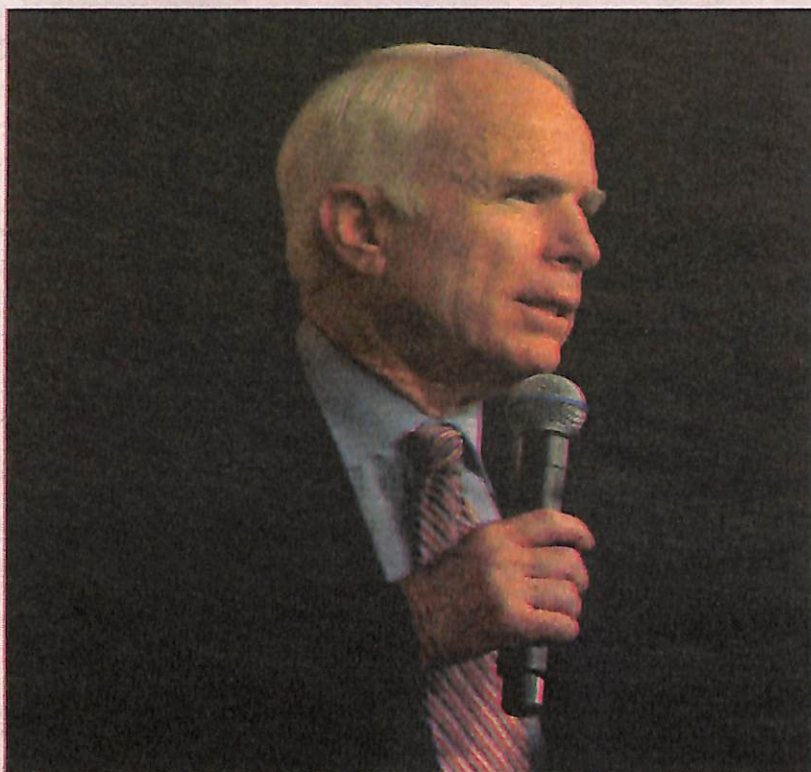
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Senator John McCain

Remembering John McCain and Bipartisanship

By Zachary Jones
Staff Writer

In the current age, where aggressive tribalism seems to be dominating both the Republican and Democratic spheres, it is important to remember that there was once a level of civility in politics. To figure out the cause of the decline in relatability amongst parties is not the objective of this article. The objective is to remember a man who, for better or worse, loved his country and wasn't afraid to step over party lines to do what he felt was necessary.

On Aug. 25, 2018, Senator John Sidney McCain III passed away. The Senator's political career spanned over the course of almost four decades, and in that time, he showed himself to be unorthodox compared to most established Republicans. Sometimes, his unorthodoxy could be seen as problematic.

The senator had a temper and a history of inappropriate language and humor, and had to apologize more than once for his behavior. He regularly disagreed with

his Republican subordinates, and was a self-proclaimed maverick. Even still, McCain's individualistic approach to politics made him respected amongst his colleagues and the press.

In 2001, Senator McCain was one of two republicans who voted against the Bush tax cut saying, "I voted against the tax cuts because of the disproportional amount that went to the wealthiest Americans. I would clearly support not extending those tax cuts in order to help address the deficit."

A year later John McCain would work together with Democrat Russ Feingold to create the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, also known informally as the McCain-Feingold Act. While the passing of the act itself was an important step in regulation regarding campaign financing, what really made it stand out was the fact that two senators from opposing parties saw an issue that they perceived as a pressing matter and decided to put their initial differences aside long enough to try and find

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Tennessee State Modernizes its Look

By Leona Dunn
Staff Writer

When you walk through Tennessee State University's Campus you can clearly see that it is under construction. From the outside buildings are standing the same as always but inside renovations are currently taking place.

Students walked into this semester with limited computer spaces in the library due to a new 'Write Studio' being placed in the center of the second floor of the building. The Write studio is a special project that officials estimate to be finished by the end of the se-

mester. The new addition is not replacing the writing center, but offering more advanced options for more writing intensive majors such as History and English.

The library reference department head says there will also be a maker's space created behind the Write Studio.

"There will be 3-D printing and more from what I heard, but since there's a construction component, I.T. component and re-wiring for all the power, this new project will take up, it probably won't be finished and ready for use until the spring," Fletcher

Modernize, Continued to Page 2



The write studio in its beginning stages.

NEWS BRIEFS



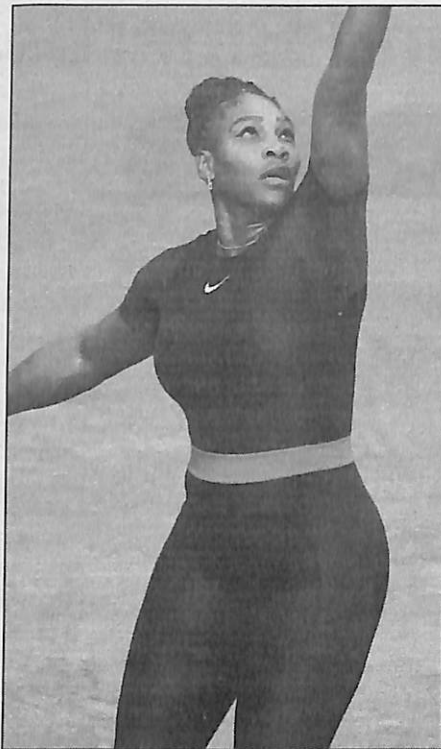
Aretha Franklin

'Queen of Soul' Laid to Rest

"Queen of Soul", Aretha Franklin's funeral service took place on Aug. 31 in Detroit. Fans and celebrities alike attended the service, including Tyler Perry, Smokey Robinson, and former president Bill Clinton. Franklin's service also included tribute performances from performers such as Stevie Wonder, Ariana Grande, and Jennifer Hudson. For those that could not attend, the home going was broadcasted as a livestream so mourners could pay their final respects to the entertainer.

Serena Williams Beats Sister Venus in US Open Match

The world famous tennis star, Serena Williams, beat older sister Venus in the third match of the US Open. The win took place only days after president of the French Open implemented a dress code for the next year, banning William's compression catsuit. The unconventional uniform served the purpose of preventing blood clots from developing.



Serena Williams

Andrew Gillum Wins Democratic Nomination in Florida

Tallahassee Mayor, Andrew Gillum, won the Democratic nomination for Florida governor, defeating front-runner, and former representative, Gwen Graham. The victory places Gillum one step closer to becoming the first black governor of Florida. Gillum is now running against Republican nomination, Ron DeSantis.



Andrew Gillum, Tallahassee Mayor

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a resolve for the matter.

Bipartisanship on that level today may be hard to imagine, but throughout McCain's political tenure, civility amongst Republicans and Democrats was something he always strived for. Many of his of his personal friends resided on both sides of the political spectrum, and during the 2008 presidential election McCain went as far as to put out a campaign ad congratulating former President Barack Obama when he was chosen as the Democrats nominee.

In John McCain's farewell letter, he stated that the people of this nation have "more in common with each other than they do

disagreements," still expressing optimism while on his deathbed that the difficulties that currently plague the American people would be overcome by the American people.

McCain loved his nation, that much couldn't be argued. His views and political standpoints vacillated over time like most career politicians, but his love and pride for his countrymen and women was something made him relatable and well-liked by many. He acted like a real person, and he treated others like real people. It would be an over exaggeration to say that bipartisanship will die with Senator John McCain, but his death could be defined as the end of a certain era of politics and the beginning of a more vitriolic replacement.

Modernize, from Page 1

said.

Title III Federal money helped to fund the library's new furnishings such as couches and desks to match the updated furniture found in the campus center. The campus center is halfway complete with their full renovation, which began at the beginning of last school year.

The Student Activities office recently finished getting repainted with a new car-

pet laid this week. The office is now ready for furniture to be placed so that the student workers and faculty can move back into their newly refreshed office space by September.

The Women's Center also got new desk, couches, and chairs just last week, upgrading its look from a lounge area to an official center.

Other new additions to look out for include the two new dormitories to be built soon, which Dean Stevenson has stated will be ready to be lived in by 2021.



The inside of the new Write Studio currently as they began to prepare the interior.

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OPINION

In the Red - The Issue of Period Poverty

By Jessica Johnson
Copy Editor

When people hear the term “menstrual period”, many are instantly off put by the idea that such fluids come out of a woman, and so frequently. The stigma behind periods has yielded the progression of many freedoms within the feminine community. Most of these freedoms could jump start a movement that leads women into the right direction of getting more help with something they cannot control.

This brings up the subject of period poverty. The definition is exactly what it sounds like, the inability to be able to afford products that pertain to the menstrual period. Within America, there are feminine products that are worth more than a packet of gum. And while one may think this is a ridiculous statement, it is said simply because despite menstruation being something a woman cannot control, it is being used as an opportunity for capitalization. The taxation of such sanitary products makes no sense because women are victims to this specific affliction.

While it may symbolize strength and pure femininity to some women, it is more of a nuisance to others. Some find themselves



Women experience “period poverty” when they are unable to obtain menstrual products, such as tampons and sanitary pads, due to the cost.

in a bind every month when needing to buy more products because of financial issues or lack of availability.

The shame that comes along with not having the products you need is what drives the movement. It is filled with rage about the lack of free and accessible products to women who need them to comfortably go throughout

their days. This hits home even more for the women who live in poverty or homelessness. Rates of theft of products have increased in relation to the increase in prices. This creates more risk for the people who are just trying to get the products and not be social pariahs.

In addition to legal risks, the actual products themselves are starting to become more

harmful rather than helpful. Some tampons have warnings to not be left in the vaginal canal for too long as it can cause risk of toxic shock syndrome. Some companies are even rumored to allegedly use rat poison within the production of feminine hygiene products. This not only increases the risk of infection for women but cuts down the use of specific products. This in turn, decreases the options for products to use which are already incredibly scarce already.

Scientists around the world have noticed the cry for help in the feminine community for the development of a safe and accessible product. Some companies in foreign and domestic areas are working towards making pads and tampons from biodegradable, safe products so it can be inexpensive and readily available for the women who need them. These innovations push forward the movement to better the conditions of women not only in the United States, but also around the world.

With further research and policy development funded by the government, maybe in the future women will finally be able to walk to any pharmaceutical or grocery store to receive their free feminine hygiene products. And hopefully, this was free us from the chains of period poverty.

A Week With the National Association of Black Journalists

EDITORIAL
By Shayla Simmons
Editor in Chief



I never knew how much one trip could change your entire perspective. The premise of Eat, Pray, Love was just a joke in my head that doesn't happen in real life, and definitely not to someone like me. One single experience cannot possibly alter your entire mindset, especially

in little under a week. But, that's exactly what happened to me after experiencing all that both the National Association of Black Journalists and the city of Detroit had to offer for the first time.

“Fake news”, encouraged distrust of the media, and brazen racist attacks have become the new norm under the current presidential administration. Coupled with the rise of technology creating overnight “journalists”, the NABJ convention focused on “driving journalism, technology, and trust”. Workshops covered a wide array of topics, expressing how to make the most of your resources when you have little to work with- a very real dilemma in most newsrooms. Some of the most memorable workshops I attended included an inside look at BuzzFeed, hosted by a number of employees and “Tools & Apps for Digital Journalism”, which discussed how to enhance your reporting resources right on your phone.

But more than just training the attendees how to be on the cutting edge and discuss industry trends, there was the overwhelming sense of warmth. Many workshops ran like conversations, everyone listening to anyone who had the floor. Older members readily shared their advice and experiences, and younger attendants (like myself) greedily ate it up.

NABJ over 3,000 Black journalists attended, traveling from every crevice of the country (and beyond) to teach, share, fellowship, and above all- celebrate. Celebrate that

that the Black press was still thriving and prevalent, and that our collective voice was worth an audience. In a city that is far too often cited for being down its luck, Detroit was the perfect setting to host a number of well-dressed, well-spoken, Black professionals to come together.

I cannot even begin to describe the sensation of walking into an environment where people who looked like me and had the same mindset. We had the same goals, passions, and struggles- a united front against all that worked against us both personally and professionally. We all could empathize with stories about both industry hardships and the additional burden of being Black while trying to make strides in a world says that we must “work twice as hard”.

More than anything, I will treasure the feeling that the convention gave me. I was reminded of the passion I once held for journalism, the idea that I could share the stories of others with the world. Again, I felt the fire within myself. But the most rewarding feeling was that I believed in my potential to be a journalist, because those who were in my company believed in me.

OPINION

A Call to Black College Men

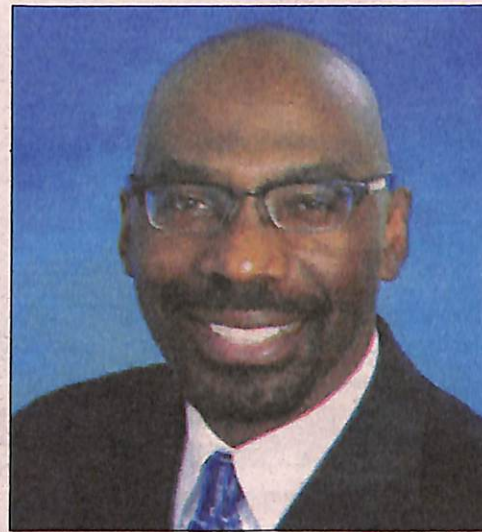
Ten Ways to Make an Impact in the African American Community in the 21st Century

S. Keith Hargrove
Dean, College of Engineering
Tennessee State University

We have all heard of the discouraging statistics of African American males in the media. And sad to say most- if not all- is true. Surely some readers may instantly disagree with the aforementioned statement, but that is not the point of this article. Yet, I choose not to dwell on the problems we have all heard about concerning Black males such as the disproportional statistics in criminal acts, prison population, poor academic performance, declining college population, college retention, sexual behavior, family structure, accountability, being responsible, and so on and so on. In fact, I have discovered that to often most dialogue concentrate only on the problems... not solutions. I believe in the old adage that "Your either part of the problem, or part of the solution". One or the other...there is no gray area.

In my many discussions with college students over the years, our conversations and rap sessions have been widespread in topics. Most of my sessions have been with Black males. *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, a leading magazine publication in higher education, has featured several exclusive issues about the declining population of Black males in college, a major concern for university administrators and faculty. The growing gender imbalance of Black males to females is close to 1 to 3 in colleges and universities. As Dean of the College of Engineering, the *National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)* magazine has also featured the endangered species of Black Engineers. This is indeed, a grave concern of mine. It is equally important that those who do graduate and become productive citizens of society, that they make a positive impact on the African American community.

As an avid reader and listener of contemporary issues in Black America, I recall a book publication by Mr. Tavis Smiley, radio/TV personality, "How to Make Black America Better", and "The Covenant with Black America". Both publications shared a blueprint to improve and make an impact within the African American community in education, politics, and socially. I would like to share my perspective on the same



S. Keith Hargrove

recipe, summarizing my discussions with Black male college students where I have taught over the last twenty years. I hope this perspective provides some insight on how African American College Men can enhance our lives and the communities in which we live.

Listed below are ten (10) ways I believe that as Black college students, you can begin to step up and take responsibility for your actions. Ironically, those that refuse to be accountable...are unlikely to even read this article. Nevertheless, though primarily targeted and addressed to males, these are behavioral practices and mental reforms that are part of the solution to many of the problems in our community. One can list many more, but again, this is only my view:

1.) Educate Yourself on Black Economics – one of the biggest problems we have is the lack of knowledge of how to manage money. It really doesn't matter how much you make, but how you spend your money is the difference. We must learn and understand the principles of wealth, frugality, net worth, savings and investments, home ownership, credit, and asset appreciation. In his book "Black Economics" by Dr. Jwanza Kunjufu, suggests one of the main problems for Blacks is their buying habits. In other words, we are buyers (consumers), not sellers. Hence, the need to start and operate Black businesses, and ingrain a culture of entrepreneurship. Buy a book on personal finance, and master it.

2.) Dispel Negative Stereotypes in your

behavior and attitude – not many of us recognize or are even aware of the negative stereotypes we project. We see the stereotypes in the media all the time, but yet in our normal everyday behavior and attitude, we continue to perpetuate the same thing in our dress, verbal language, body language, academics (e.g. acting White), social network, etc. Unfortunately, we find humor in the very issues that plague our community. I find no humor on "black comedy" on BET about living in the Projects. Believe it or not, not all Blacks grew up in the Hood, Projects, or the Southside of Chicago. And being "hard" is not a confirmation of your ability to survive a tumultuous living environment. You can be a professional without forgetting your roots.

3.) Join at least two (2) Community Organizations to force Change – there is force in numbers. Identify at least two organizations with similar interests and goals you have in improving the community. Get more involve with your church, fraternity (sorority), civic and social groups, boys and girls clubs, and business cartels that are about change politically, socially, and economically.

4.) Support Black Businesses – this is always a challenge. Our main excuse for not doing this is they have "poor customer service". The solution is demanding better customer service rather than immediately taking your buying power elsewhere. We must support our own network of financial and selling institutions to circulate money in our own community. Many communities and urban areas are more than 80% Black, but own less than 20% of the businesses. Something is wrong with this picture.

5.) VOTE! Nothing was more evident than the presidential election, that every vote DOES count. Many of us complain about the political situations in this country, and despite historically the lives that were lost to obtain this right, we still refuse to vote. Get involve in the campaign activities that result in selecting elected officials. They represent you, even when you don't vote.

6.) Respect and Show Love for Black Women – God's greatest creature deserve all the respect and love they can bear...and more. I always reflect back on my mother and grandmother...and I know instantly why God had to try twice to perfect the hu-

man race as we know it.

7.) Have a desire for Continuous Learning – no matter what level of education you have, learning should be a life-long process. As I tell my students, "If you fail the desire to learn, you most surely will pass the test of Ignorance".

8.) Stop Using the N___ Word – We have re-defined the n___ word in the community we live. However, it maintains its historical meaning depending on whose saying it. If we wouldn't want other ethnic or racial groups to use it in describing us.....why are we so distorted and confused that we have to use it on ourselves.

9.) Become Accountable...Responsible....and demand Excellence – ARE you ready??? Now is the time to become Accountable and Responsible for your behavior and lifestyle. We need to be more responsible for our actions, and stop blaming others for the decisions we make in our lives. Take control of your own destiny, live within your means, and enjoy the best things that life has to offer. And demand Excellence of yourself in everything you do.

10.) READ...READ...READ – beyond reading about your major or discipline, read other informational material such as *Black Enterprise*, *Fortune*, *Business Week*, *Time*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, newspapers, etc, using social media or otherwise. A well rounded reading library will make you more knowledgeable about social, political, and personal finances as well as what's happening around you. Referring to a popular phrase, "Knowledge is Power".

These are only recommendations with respect to a call to all Black Male College Students. You can begin taking some of these actions NOW...and impact the university and the African American community. A prerequisite to these practices is having faith in a supreme being, and love of family and friends. Some of you have just entered the university environment, and some are about to depart the confines of a somewhat safe environment, and others soon will be. You will be challenged and stereotyped, yet it is up to you to dispel negative myths, and project a positive image of intellect and pride in one's cultural background and heritage. Your SUCCESS depends on it!

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Greetings Tiger Family

From the Great 78th Administration of the Student Government Association Tennessee State University

Congratulations! You have made the first step to building a successful lifelong future by becoming a tiger at the illustrious Tennessee State University. On behalf of the Great 78th Administration of the Student Government Association, we welcome you to this institution and wish you nothing but success and prosperity.

We want you all to know that we are here to truly help you. We want you to have the best college experience as possible. Be sure to learn your Class Delegation, Representatives at Large, Miss and Mr. TSU, and the SGA President and Vice President. Thank you for choosing our HBCU! We hope

you've brought your best game to the Land of Golden Sunshine!

In closing, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will." -Frederick Douglass

In The Essence of Tiger Pride,
Kayla T. McCrary, SGA President
William Taylor, SGA Executive Vice President



Kayla T. McCrary, SGA President



William Taylor, SGA Executive Vice President

A Fellow Tiger's Testimony

Sexual Assault at Tennessee State University

By Micah Williams
Staff Writer

"I felt like I was one of many," said one female student at Tennessee State University, who was raped by one of her peers while on campus in October 2017. The student, who chooses to remain anonymous, was a junior when the attack occurred and is now a senior. It was the 26th rape that occurred on campus.

Rape is one of the many hot-button topics many do not discuss. According to nsvrc.org (National Sexual Violence Resource), one in five women will experience some sort of sexual violence in their lifetime.

Her predator was a student at the time but has since graduated. "I did know him," she said, "We had class together, he was a study partner, and involved in three organizations." The NSVRC reports eight out of ten cases of rape, the victim knew the assailant.

After the encounter, the perpetrator admitted his wrongdoing.

"The next day, he kept calling and I would not answer the phone. He eventually texted me, admitting his heinous act."

When asked if it made her feel any better



because he took responsibility, she answered, "No! It made the reality of the situation more transparent."

After the encounter, she reported the assault to Nashville Metro Police, the Women's Center then, and TSU became involved. Sianne Wilson, The Director of the Women's Center, was one of the anonymous student's confidants during the process.

"The Women's Center is like a shelter. Women can always talk to other members, all lifestyles or me. Many have talked to me about rape incidents," Wilson said.

The process of reporting the rape is tedious—both emotionally and mentally draining. The student did not go into much detail about the process, however, she says, "TSU could have done more. Unfortunately, who you are can matter. The predator was extremely involved; therefore, it was not

taken as seriously as it could have been."

There are several ways to report such an incident. First, find a safe haven away from the offender, then immediately call a trusted person. Next, report to either the TSU Counseling Center or the TSU Student Health Services. In addition, you can report to a "responsible employee" at the University who has the authority and obligation to report incidents of sexual violence and/or student misconduct. Responsible employees include Deans, Professors/Instructors, any Athletic

staff, TSU Police/Security officers, Advisors, Presidents, and Title IX coordinators. Of course, confidentiality is always upheld.

The Office of Equity and Inclusion (Title IX Coordinator), Student Conduct, and Judicial Services are the outlets that investigate cases regarding rape or other forms of assault.

Sadly, more than ninety percent of rapes on college campuses, is not reported, says nsvrc.org. Although this student reported the assault, many choose not to.

"Victim Shaming is a misconception that needs to end. No one will ever understand someone unless you have experienced rape or molestation, male or female. Victims are humans. Embrace victims and let them know, they are not alone."

This student has healed from her unfortunate experience and will not let this crime, define her. "I have not spoken to him since then, but I have healed. It is always a constant healing process, but I am in a great place. I still forgive him though. No matter how broken you are, you will only become stronger and never let it keep you from the happiness you deserve."

STUDENT AFFAIRS

TSU Alum and Waffle House Hero Shaw Launches New Charity



James Shaw and President Glenda Glover at Come Together Day

By Lucas Johnson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (TSU News Service) – TSU alum and Waffle House hero James Shaw Jr. will launch his new charity during an anti-violence rally at Tennessee State on Sunday, Aug. 26.

Shaw said the mission of the James Shaw Jr. Foundation is to work with other like-minded organizations and community advocates to eradicate violence and address mental health issues, as well as provide support, tools and resources for individuals and families who have experienced severe violence and trauma.

"TSU is honored to be a part of this special event as Mr. James Shaw Jr. launches his foundation to address community issues and concerns that plague our neighborhoods. We are particularly pleased that TSU is a part of this kickoff event," said TSU President Glenda Glover, who has set up a scholarship at the university in Shaw's name.

"James could have easily stepped from the forefront and quietly gone on with his life. Instead, he has created a platform that allows him to be a voice for those who feel disenfranchised and have lost hope. His

giving of himself speaks to his character and values."

Four people were killed and several others wounded on April 22 when a gunman opened fire in a Waffle House in the Nashville suburb of Antioch.

Authorities have said there would have probably been more casualties had it not been for Shaw's actions. He wrestled a rifle away from the gunman and tossed it over the counter before shoving the shooter out the door.

A few months ago, family members of the shooting victims attended a ceremony at TSU to honor those killed and wounded in the shooting. Shaw presented the victims with a check for more than \$240,000. Immediately after the shooting, Shaw set up a GoFundMe campaign with a goal of \$15,000. However, he raised much, much more.

And he plans to continue the giving with his James Shaw Jr. Foundation.

"We can only make real progress if we work together, stand collectively and care for one another," said Shaw. "I will never let my life, or those lives we sadly lost, be in vain."



Several students and faculty members play a round of UNO together.

STEM Students Enjoy Life and Science Picnic

By Andre Toliver
Staff Writer

Only a week into the semester, and STEM students of Tennessee State University have already become a "Big Blue" family. Saturday was a fun-filled afternoon for the freshmen to come out and bond with their upperclassmen peers, their professors, and other STEM faculty members alike.

STEM students of all classifications met were greeted with a warm presence, good vibes, and an abundance of food such as hot-dogs and hamburgers as part of the Life and Science picnic. One at a time, student's tables were called to grab food while everybody else were competitively engaged in a number of games, from UNO to Scrabble. Games were played and memories were being made.

After a couple hours of fun passed, Ms. Green and the STEM staff teamed up and challenged the students to a "Faculty versus Students" Kickball game. The Highlight of the game came at the end when the staff team came up with a run in the last inning, ending the game 10-9; forcing the students to hold an "L" for the remainder of the semester.

"I wanted to try and get all the students together and meet our faculty because a lot of times they don't get a chance to meet the faculty in a setting where we're all in a relaxed atmosphere," Executive Director of the College of Life and Science, Lonnie Sharp, explained.

"It gives the students an opportunity to be able to feel like their part of a community. A lot of times when students come, particularly freshman, they don't know anybody and tend to feel isolated. They tend to feel like their challenged and struggling; they don't know



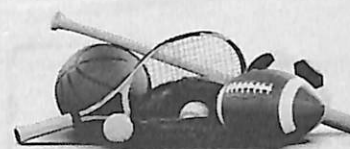
Students in line for the buffet provided as part of the picnic.

what to do. So in our program, TLSAMP Program, we pair freshman students up with upperclassmen and that upperclassman serves as their critical friend to help guide them through that first year of transition," Green explained when asked why this event is hosted for students.

Green and Sharp are both in charge over the College of Life and Science Department at Tennessee State University. Their goal is to "promote excellence through scholarly inquiry and research, lifelong learning, and a commitment to service". With the success of the first "Life and Science's Picnic", they hope to continue this new tradition of fun and acceptance throughout the college by making the picnic an annual event for the students. Upcoming event, seminars and social clubs regarding the College of Life and Science can be found on the bulletin boards inside the Boswell building.



SPORTS



Seniors Honored at Football Luncheon

By Andre Toliver
Staff Writer

Football is finally back for the 2018-2019 season, and with a new season underway, its tradition that Tennessee State University honors its seniors with the annual "Senior Luncheon". Arriving in style, the 11 seniors pulled into the front entrance of the Millennium Maxwell Hotel in downtown Nashville in a black limousine. TSU's head football coach, Rod Reed, must've told these players to dress "fresh-to-death" as that's exactly how the players arrived, wearing tuxedos with a "TSU Blue" tie to match.

As Alumni, parents and coaches all filled the conference room, the tiger cheerleaders, along with some of the band, greeted all. One at a time, each senior was called out of the waiting room in pregame fashion: hear the name, step out on the red carpet with a cheerleader by their side and pose for the camera. After eating and conversing with everybody, the players decided to have offensive lineman, Thomas Burton, and safety, LaQuarius Cook, give a few words to everybody in attendance. Burton gave his speech first.

"I hope y'all are excited as I am. We're going to work real[ly] hard. We're trying to do big things at TSU this year. It was a long camp we put the work in; we grinded as a team, there's no I in team. Everybody did their part; everybody played their part.



The Aristocrat of Bands performing at the luncheon event.

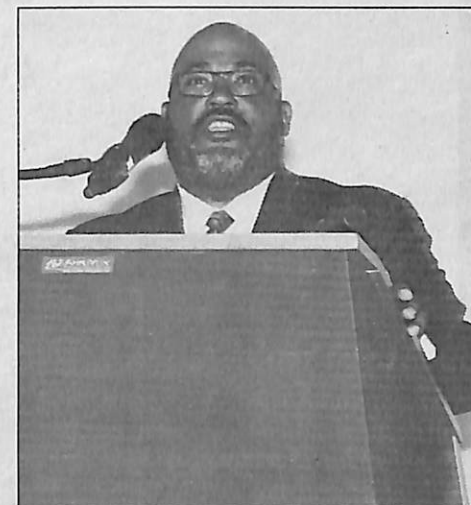
Everybody plays a roll. All the time Coach Reed says we need everybody in the room to accomplish what we're trying to accomplish. We're going to need everybody in this room as well. Y'all should understand we need the fans...we need y'all to make some noise. But on a serious note, we have a lot of firepower this year. I was playing football since I was five, and it's a lot of guys that play around me, at any given moment- when they touch the ball, ain't no telling. I'm really excited of what big blue has to offer this year, go big blue!"

Next, Cook stepped to the podium and

had this to say.

"The people that we got, our coaches, they're great guys. I mean, I just go to the office and sit with them throughout the day. Like, when I have free time between classes, I just go out there and chill with them because they're just great people to be around... but the defense, were trying to be number one in the nation. Anything but that is short. So, go big blue!"

Coach Reed got on the mic last. He stood tall on the podium overlooking the audience, alumni and parents alike as he, one by one, gave each of his 11 seniors a shout-out fol-



Head coach, Rod Reed, announcing at the podium, acknowledging each senior's accomplishments and expected graduation dates.

lowed by their expected graduation dates. Each senior player was recognized for his achievements and accomplishments while being a student athlete at Tennessee State.

The John Merritt Classic, the first game of the season, is against Bethune-Cookman. The last time we saw this team two years ago, TSU walked away with a 31-24 victory on the road. The game begins Saturday at 6pm. It'll be covered by ESPN+ and 102.1 "The Ville". Player stats can be found on tsutigers.com/football.

Tigers Win John Merritt Classic

By Shayla Simmons
Editor in Chief

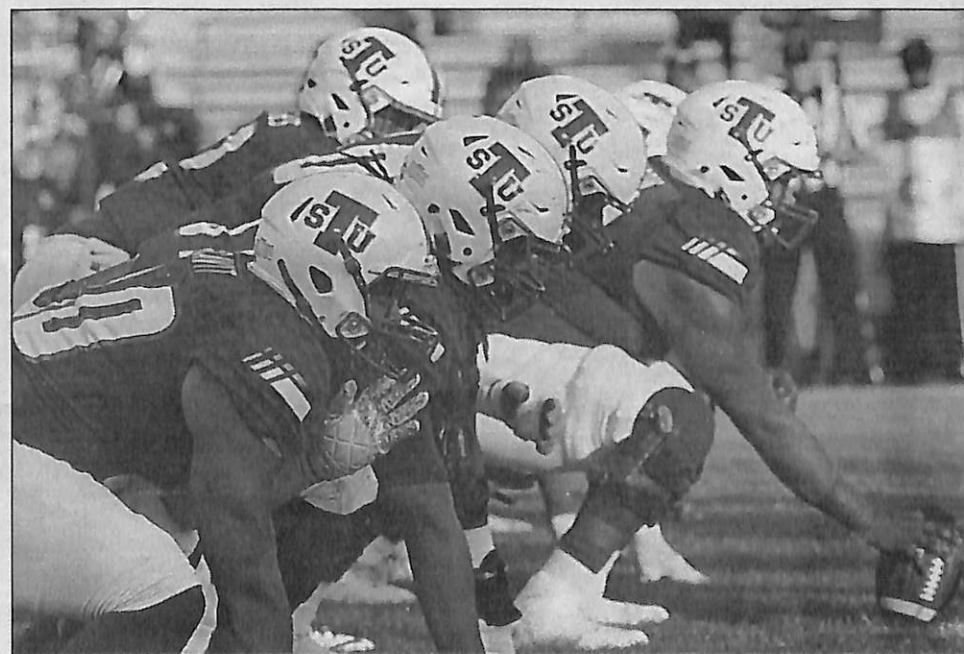
In the first game of the season, the Tennessee State University tigers took home a victory against the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats. The Nissan Stadium was filled with a crowd hungry for a victory at the 20th annual John Merritt Classic held on Saturday, September 1.

The game ended in a 34-3 victory.

Alex Bullard, a senior at TSU said, "Bethune-Cookman were good, but TSU was better."

Bullard also said, "it was exciting to see the freshmen run out on the field, it reminded me of my first year," in regards to the tradition of freshmen running the field.

The next game of the season will be met with even more anticipation. The Southern Heritage Classic held in Memphis will take place on Saturday, September 8.





TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2018-2019

- Sept 17** Recognition of Constitution Day
- Sept 23-29** Student Study Week – No Activities Scheduled
- Oct 1-6** Mid-term Examination Week-all classes meet as scheduled
- Oct 12** Last day to withdraw from a course and/or the University
- Oct. 14-20** Homecoming
- Oct 16** Founders Day (9:00 a.m. – Kean Hall)
- Oct 29 – Jan 25** Registration for Spring 2019
- Nov 12** Veterans' Day (Nov. 11 – Observed on Nov. 12)
- Nov 19-24** Fall Break/Thanksgiving Holiday- No Classes
- Nov 26-30** Student Study Week – No Activities Scheduled
- Nov 30** Last day of class
- Dec 3-7** Final examinations
- Dec 8** Commencement – Gentry Complex
- Dec 10** Faculty must have posted all grades via "MyTSU"
- Dec 24 – Jan 2** Holiday Break – University Closed

