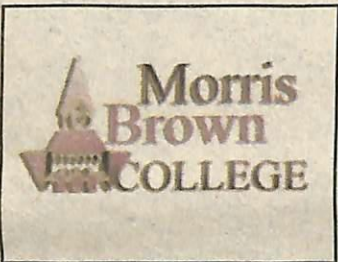




M&M's have spirit...how about you? These bite-size candies now come in TSU white and blue.

Page 3



Morris Brown forced to close for the remainder of semester.

Page 10



Wayne Wonder brings Jamaican flavor to American airwaves.

Page 15



Hicks leads TSU softball on the field and in spirit.

Page 17



PHOTO COURTESY OF TENNESSEAN.COM

TSU assistant coach Chris Graves looks on as Athletics Director Teresa Phillips directs players on the court as she fills in as head coach in the game against APSU on Feb. 13.

Graves says he could have head coached

He gladly accepts back seat

By Tamika L. Jefferson
Sports Editor

Assistant basketball coach Chris Graves said Athletics Director Teresa Phillips could have assisted him in the Feb. 13 game that she took to the history pages as the first woman to head coach an NCAA Division I men's team.

His assertion comes after many students wondered if Graves is qualified to head coach one game, if it was a matter of not enough manpower or if Phillips was just on a power trip. These questions and others made fans' curiosity on this matter take priority over the game itself, which

the Tigers lost 56-71 adding to a 2-25 (0-16 in the Ohio Valley Conference) losing season.

"Practically speaking, it's impossible for one coach to run a Division I basketball team even for one game," 26-year-old Graves said. "It would have either been me assisting her or her assisting me. Either way, we had a good time over there on the bench....She is an intense person and she made the team play harder.

"What I want everyone to understand is that I had a choice to either take it as a slap in the face or as an opportunity. She

See "Negative" on page 18

HBCU Student Think Tank gets new money, host

By Meridith M. Miller and Tosha Jones
News Writer and Copy Editor

After Tennessee State University has funded the costs for the Annual HBCU Student Think Tank held on its campus for the past two years, the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund has committed to funding all costs for the next year's Think Tank.

During the second annual Think Tank, held Feb. 20-23, the Marshall Fund sent representatives to observe the proceedings of the student-run conference to get a more concrete understanding of the newly adopted event.

Along with the financial support of the Marshall Fund, next year's HBCU Student Think Tank will for the first time be hosted by another

See "Think" on page 2

TSU alumnus makes history in Mississippi

By Brian C. Browley
Community View Editor

Prominent Tennessee State University alumni such as Oprah Winfrey, Wilma Rudolph, and Dr. Levi Watkins oftentimes receive top billing as the preeminent alumni of TSU. However, a number of less renowned individuals in the TSU alumni family also have contributed to groundbreaking firsts in recent years.

Among these distinguished alumni is Mayor Harvey Johnson Jr., a 1965 graduate who was elected the first Black mayor of Jackson, Miss., in 1997 and won his reelection bid in 2001.

Despite these dignified accomplishments,

See "Mississippi" on page 9

News

Think Tank move rooted in advancement

Continued from page 1

college or university member of the HBCU community. Both of these developments come as what some say is a well-deserved reward for TSU students who have worked hard planning the Think Tank for the past two years.

"The Think Tank is a lot of work," said Chauncey Davis, Student Government Association representative-at-large and Think Tank co-chair. "Here at TSU we lack the moral support from some of the administration for our students to feel less burdened with Think Tank planning. It's time for the Think Tank to grow and go to another university."

After members of the TSU SGA, along with other participating leaders in the Think Tank conferences, decided the next Think Tank should be moved to another HBCU, the question became which university should be selected to be the official 2004 host?

Marshall Fund representative Damien Travier met with Think Tank co-chairs Davis and Jamie Riley, and SGA presidents and vice presidents from participating HBCUs Friday, Feb. 20. While assembled they viewed presentations from Howard University and North Carolina Central University, the two leading schools petitioning to host the next Think Tank.

"The presentations were designed to show why the Think Tank should go to the respective universities," Davis said. "There are no set criteria, and the decision is basically left up to Jamie (Riley) and the Marshall Fund advisory panel."

Howard and North Carolina Central, two of the 45 member schools of the Marshall Fund, each have qualities that could make hosting the Think Tank a success.

Howard has established connections with many major communication entities, such as BET, and could give the Think Tank the much needed publicity for growth in volume.

"TSU has done an excellent job in getting the Think Tank started with great initiative, but the Think Tank really needs to be more publicized," said Cornell Williamson, president of the Howard SGA and official presenter for Howard's bid to host the next Think Tank. "However, one of the main reasons the Think Tank should come to our nation's capital at Howard is so that students can become more politically minded and work to change important issues."

Kian Brown, SGA representative of NCCU, has done the majority of the research needed to move the Think Tank to his university in the city of Durham, N.C. He has gained the support of the Durham City Council, and anticipates the Think Tank being a huge citywide event if hosted by his school. NCCU students also have been enthusiastic participants in the Think Tank for the past two years, and they look forward to an opportunity to host the conference.

"In order to grow, (the Think Tank) needs to go to a different school," said Chaundra Luckett, Bennett College SGA representative. "By doing this it can get bigger and better each year."

Some TSU students are not as convinced that moving the Think Tank to a different HBCU is the best answer.

"Our students did all of the hard work to get the Think Tank started," said Charity Miles, a sophomore from Cordova, Tenn.



PHOTO BY JAMARRAN E'MIL MOSS

Students from HBCUs all over the nation gathered in Kean Hall for what could be the last Think Tank at the TSU.

"Why change it to another school? This is our special event."

Besides the fact that letting other HBCUs host the conference may help the Think Tank grow to be a bigger and better event, another rationale behind moving the conference is that it would give other students in different areas of the nation an opportunity to attend. Those students who may not be able to come to Tennessee may have a better opportunity to attend the Think Tank when it comes to an HBCU closer to their university.

"I know all students won't get the opportunity to participate in the Think Tank if it stays here," said Tunisha Hobson, a sophomore from Memphis. "But there are still TSU students who haven't experienced the Think Tank. It's a difficult decision."

One element that may help doubtful TSU students is that wherever the following Think Tank conferences are held, 65 TSU students will have the opportunity to participate free of charge. TSU students currently pay a \$5 registration fee, and they also fund any extra activities, such as step shows, that are not included with the registration fee.

Wherever the Third Annual Student Think Tank ends up, there will be significant improvements.

"With the financial support of the Marshall Fund, the Think Tank should have more speakers, more entertainment, better registration materials, and increased attendance," said Riley, a TSU graduating senior. "I do plan to attend the Think Tank in the future, and I will assist in any way I can."

With these improvements, along with the commitment of HBCU students, the Think Tank plans to execute its motto of "defining and redefining of the HBCU experience." •

Are you interested in print journalism? Do you think you have what it takes to responsibly report the highlights and lowlights here at TSU?

If you answered yes to these questions, come join the news staff of *The Meter*. Applications can be filled out in Suite 304 of Kean Hall. Come Join Now!

Corrections

-In the Feb. 26 issue on page 15 Salandrea Farrington's last name is misspelled.

The Meter regrets the error and continuously strives to improve.

News

School spirited M&M's not melting in Tigers' mouths

By Gregory Brand
Layout Editor

Tennessee State University freshman business major Monique Wilson walks into the student center bookstore almost every day.

On a seemingly normal weekday in February she is found making her usual daily purchase of a few pencils and the occasional bag of potato chips. While shopping, she takes notice of a party-sized bag of M&M's candy and notices that the contents are in TSU blue and white.

Surprised and impressed by the color of the bite-size candies, she picks up a bag, but soon notices the hefty \$3.59 tag price. The candy is then placed back onto the shelf and the once impressed shopper goes on about her way.

At TSU the school spirited snacks that arrived in the main campus bookstore last semester don't seem to have the same kind of popularity they possess at other universities.

Amid all of the banners, T-shirts and other collegiate memorabilia, TSU also offers M&M's that are not your standard of rainbow-colored, chocolatey-flavored candies; these sugary innovations have the almost unique condition of being TSU blue and white.

Bookstore cashier Derrick West said that he hardly sees anything move from the M&M's display, especially with the candy priced at a steep \$3.59 per 8-ounce bag. That's the size of nearly two regular servings, yet seven times the price of a regular serving.

This could be the biggest reason that there are lagging sales of the chocolate candies. However, other universities like the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and the University of Nebraska report large sales of their products at their schools, which were targeted because of their strong athletic programs. These schools receive these amazing sales with the same prices that are here at TSU.

"I think the idea to represent for the school is great," said junior mass communications major Ebony Langston. "But if they want students to buy them they should look at putting out packages that look fresh, lower the high price and



PHOTO BY DAVID TRUESDALE

School spirited M&M's don't seem to be Tigers' snack of choice.

let us know that they are in there. If the campus knew, they would buy them."

The candy took its place at TSU in the fall of 2002 and has yet to see significant sales in the campus bookstore. At press time cashier West had only sold one bag to his recollection.

Mars Corp. is the entity responsible for campaigning, producing and distributing this color-coded-candy college program. M&M's are a registered trademark of the Mars Corp. and the name of the program is called Team Works.

Team Works is under the Color

Works program that allows companies and even regular everyday people to personalize their very own M&M's. Team Works founder Luca Bertozzi started the program to give praise to school athletics.

The program was originally started with Barnes and Noble Booksellers. The decision was made later to place them in college bookstores, making them more accessible to students.

It was through this program that TSU bookstore manager Steve Treece made the order for the school spirit M&M's, hoping to help bring more school spirit to the campus.

"I ordered the candies because I thought they would be a great addition to the bookstore," Treece said. "They are a great way to unify the students on campus with the administration and the alumni."

Treece ordered four cases of the M&M's to add to the bookstore supply. Each case holds 24 packages of candy, but they have sold only about 10 packs from that original order, according to Treece.

The Mars/Team Works venture aims to make money for the university by promoting the schools' colors as its biggest asset.

"Schools like Nebraska and the University Of Tennessee at Knoxville, which are colleges that have large athletic followings, are big opportunities for revenue," said Mars Corp. director of public relations Mercedes Warrick.

TSU sales of the Mars product have not been as high as those of the latter mentioned universities. The candies tend to catch the eye of some students during the year, yet most of the sales are confined to school holidays and events like homecoming week or when there are guests on campus. Most of the candies, which are considered pricey by several students, are left on the shelves. Some of the bookstore packages look old and damaged, making them uninviting. Despite their discouraging looks the candies are known for their long shelf life.

"I think the school colored candies are cute," Wilson said. "I would buy them if they didn't cost so much and if I knew they were there in the first place."•



PHOTO BY DAVID TRUESDALE

Forum

My Diary of the War on Iraq



Sherpri G. Giles
Editor in Chief

From Where I Sit

Saturday, March 22, 2003

As I awoke Friday afternoon rubbing the crud from my eyes after a typical all night session of editing in *The Meter's* office, my attention immediately drew to the television. It initially depicted lights resembling falling stars and shots of fire. Without delay, massive puffs of smoke

in the skies of Baghdad were seen on C-SPAN, FOX, ABC, CBS, MSNBC, NBC, TBS, TNN, CNN and even the cloudy channel 50 in the dorms. Tears of both hate and love began to slowly trickle down from my weepy eyes. I have nothing but love for the soldiers fighting, but I hate the thought of the 200-250 citizens killed and soldiers dying for a war of "shock and awe," for which there are not clear motives.

As of 3:08 a.m. this morning all I can think of is President George W. Bush with a smile flying from the White House in his personal helicopter to Camp David mountaintop retreat, while the mourning of six dead soldiers' families is reported by MSNBC news.

Staff Sgt. Kendall Damon Waters-Bey, 29, of Baltimore

was the first reported Black soldier to die. Black Entertainment Television and ABC depicted the sadness of the family. His father, Michael, was passionately against the war and publicly blamed the president for his son's death.

"I want you to see (my son's) picture," he said as he held up his son's photo. "The only son I had, and you took him from me."

I wonder if or when the next family will appear on television with bloodshot eyes from crying due to the death, or as the media calls it "casualty," of the war? Moreover, I wonder if Bush is enjoying sipping raspberry tea on the mountaintop while U.S. citizens are fighting his war?

I am scared, but I know that I have to have faith. While I don't have any family fight-

ing in the war, my Tennessee State University friend Elgia Blaine was deported with only 48-hours notice. He is so cool. He came by *The Meter* office the day before he deployed, but I wasn't there and he left me a note. So, I didn't get to say goodbye.

As I glance at the television and see a blanket of smoke in the air, and troops with guns and tanks, all I can do is wonder if that's him with the gun or if he is somewhere near.

This curiosity is sickening. All I can do now is echo the final words in his note: "I'll holla back at you when I get back, if I get back. Pray for me."

*I put forward for all those who have read my commentary/diary to also pray for all U.S. Allied Soldiers.**

WAR!!! What are we REALLY fighting for!!!



Amani Murph
News Editor

From Where I Stand

Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery...none but ourselves can free our minds.

Have no fear of atomic energy... 'cause none of them can stop the time...

Bob Marley, *Redemption Song*

The people of the United States are feeling nervous about the idea of George W. Bush and his minions waging war against Iraq. There are those who actually believe that this war will have a positive impact on the world, being that the "axis of evil" will be brought to its knees. On the

other hand, there are legions of people who are opposed to sending their sons and daughters off to fight in the name of...in the name of...uh...what are we fighting in the name of again?

Are we fighting because what happened on Sept. 11,

See "War" on page 5

What We Think

United States needs no one's consent to rule the world

The United States clearly has demonstrated that it needs no permission from any outside entities to carry out any acts that it deems necessary to perform.

America defiantly bypassed receiving approval by the United Nations Security Council to wage war on a nation that it claims is a threat to world security.

According to the Associated Press, Zimbabwe's Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa told the U.N. Human Rights Commission, that western countries had no right to preach to the developing world and he accused them of having double standards. And can one blame him for this train of thought when North Korea sits on "sufficient fissile material already to make one or two nuclear weapons and the technical capability to produce them?" And in the opinion of some foreign affairs experts, North Korea's communist regime has an "appalling" human rights record.

So why does America not display the urgency to disarm North Korea who, in the last few months, has expelled U.N. monitors, withdrawn from a key nuclear arms-control treaty and restarted a nuclear reactor that the U.S. says can be used to make atomic bombs? How can it be rationalized that this does not create a threat to

See "Declaring" on page 6

The Meter
The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

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The Meter capitalizes the letter "B" in the word "Black" when it refers to people of African descent in accordance with the Oxford American and other dictionaries.

Forum

War only adds to the suffering

Continued from page 4

2001, is unforgivable? But then how does that link to Saddam Hussein? Or because Iraq's nuclear weapons—that Hussein said they don't have, and the U.N. weapons inspectors haven't found—could pose a threat to international security? Or is some big capitalist conspiracy that has a lot to do with oil and money the reason that thousands of young people are saying goodbye to their families in order to protect and serve?

Whatever the justification for attacking Iraq, the fact is that a war waged in that country will not be the only war that is taking place in the world today. At this very moment there are civil wars going on in Côte D'Ivoire (better known as the Ivory Coast) and in Colombia. The United States also has been waging a war on drugs since the Reagan era, and loosing quite successfully might I add.

As Africans in America, we are at war ourselves. If we are not aware of why that is, then that is a sure sign that we are on the road to defeat.

As Africans in America, we have been at war since the first slave was forced to abandon his/her language, culture and land for servitude.

As Africans in the Diaspora we have been at war since Alexander "the great" invaded Egypt, raped and pillaged the country for its information, people and natural resources.

As Africans in the Diaspora, we have been at war since the 1881 Berlin Conference. This is the conference at which Otto Von Bismarck decided that it was silly for powerful European nations to continue squabbling over

African territories. He thought it better that they sit down, like the civilized nations that they were, and slice up the continent over tea and crumpets.

As Africans in America, we have been at war since the Willie Lynch philosophy of divide and conquer has permeated our nation and divided us on the basis of skin color and hair texture.

Opio Toure, a democratic Oklahoma state representative, has introduced a bill for the establishment of a task force that will research why the number of African-Americans in prison is so highly disproportionate to the prison population of inmates of other races; 40 percent of inmates are African-American. According to the Centers for Disease Control, African-Americans account for half of the new HIV cases reported in 2001. According to the 1990 report from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 33 percent of single parent households are headed by an African-American.

I can continue listing historical events and statistics until the urgency of war seeps into your thought process, however, I think it better that one conducts his/her own research. We are fighting in order to save ourselves from utter obliteration.

Who are we fighting? We, as Africans in the Diaspora, are fighting ourselves. We are struggling with our own self-loathing and self-defeating thoughts that allow us to fall victim to the trappings of society.

We can no longer afford to blame "the man" for our oppression. Anyone who oppresses another is in turn oppressing himself, creating for himself a false sense of reality and superiority. This is a sign that in setting our own selves free, we will be doing our oppressors a favor as well as loosing

their shackles.

There is no race of people that has contributed more to this planet as we have. We are beings worthy of self-love, as well as, respect from others.

We must hold ourselves accountable for the numbers of African men and women who are behind bars, who have been infected with HIV, or who have left children without parents. What is happening to our people is a result of our own mentality. We must be responsible for the decisions that we make.

That is why Tennessee State University students must ready themselves for battle. First one must kill his/her own feelings of inferiority and self-hatred that allows for harmful behaviors like unprotected sex, skipping classes, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Second, outside of the war within oneself we must fight the external war that is waged within our everyday society. We must fight in order to change the stereotypical images of African-American men and women that plague our society. We must fight against the ideas of African inferiority in the areas of academics, economics, culture, etc. We must also fight against those around us who are praying that we fail.

Learning our history will give us the knowledge needed to understand how we got in the predicament that we are in, and it will give us the ammunition required for combat. African history can be accessed through various resources like libraries, the Internet and elders in the community.

The war we are fighting is not a physical war; it is mental and spiritual. It is time for us to get strong, and then get free. •

The Meter Mission Statement

The Meter's mission is to accurately and responsibly report the "highlights and lowlights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive changes in the world around us, while reflecting the university's 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 Monday after 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:

- 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.
- Opinions should not exceed 500 words, and letters should not exceed 300 words.
- Sources of factual material should be included. All claims of fact are subject to verification.
- The Meter reserves the right to reject letters, articles or ads, without explanation, and to edit others as necessary. •

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Forum

The UNCF faces a new threat



Gregory Brand
Layout
Editor

**Keeping
it
Real**

As a member of the African Diaspora and a student who attends a historically Black university, I know as part of my basic knowledge what the United Negro College Fund does for people like me and for institutions that help people like me become professionals.

Thousands of students have made it to college and beyond because of the efforts of this organization to educate

America's Black youth. The UNCF supports many HBCUs and has played an integral role in the success of many of today's political leaders and entertainers.

Sadly, this tradition of education and fellowship could all one day come to a tragic end. Though the UNCF does not discriminate against nor exclude any race, one Texas Tech student would like to see it decimated.

His name is Matthew Coday. He feels that since the UNCF doesn't give him money for school because of his ethnicity, his proposed White Persons College Fund should stand as a money source for students of European decent.

He feels as though the UNCF is exclusive because it focuses on supporting African-Americans. He fights against its principles by making his organization support an exclusive group as well—white Americans. He said that his newly founded organization will be funded by private donations.

Coday himself displayed the mali-

cious nature of his plan in his dare to be sued. He plans on pulling the UNCF into the spotlight and under the microscope so that it can be overturned and eventually destroyed.

"I would love to see organizations like the (UNCF) disbanded," Coday said to Texas Tech reporter Jeffery R Young.

This development came at an already tense time with the recent affirmative action problems at the University of Michigan and only adds to the race-relations problems. Some students feel as though they don't receive a fair shake when it comes to their admission to the university.

Though I understand why white students are angry about the hand they are being dealt, they should just deal with it.

The UNCF is not an enemy organization; it is a helpful agent for people who need it. Affirmative action injects much needed diversity into otherwise whitewashed campuses.

It seems as though some white

Americans have forgotten that they represent the nation's majority and we, African-Americans, are the minorities. We need the help that the UNCF and other organizations like it provide. After enduring hundreds of years as a predetermined underclass in the shackles of slavery, and decades existing in the underbelly of mainstream American society, the African-American, though still limited, can achieve "the hope and the dream of the slave."

No longer denied a sound and solid education by the laws of racism, we have the power to make anything happen. Because of those who came and fought before us, and who continue to fight today, the sky is our limit.

Because of the blood, sweat and tears sowed by our ancestors, we are now beginning to have an equal playing field. However, we must always remember that the war for real freedom and acceptance is far from over. It has only begun. •

Declaring war receives mixed opinions

Continued from page 4

world security? One possible answer could be the fact that North Korea's president never attempted to assassinate George Bush Sr., as did Saddam Hussein.

Barring President George W. Bush's personal vendetta against Iraq, it is clearly a case of the U.S. abusing its ability to conquer and control weaker nations. The secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Abdelouahed Belkeziz, said it best when he claimed that this war would mean "a return to the principle of the strong bullying the weak, and jungle justice."

Can one really conceive the notion that the U.S. would declare war on another world super power without the consensus of such countries as France, China, and Russia, who have withheld their support in this current war?

Although one cannot deny the

tremendous wealth, intelligence, and strength that the U.S. has always contributed to the U.N., this single nation feels that it has more of a voice than all others. The U.N. itself was charted under the principles that aimed to "reaffirm faith in ...the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small," and to practice tolerance in order to live together in peace.

Many argue that tolerance of a tyrant in Iraq is unacceptable; however, as Zimbabwe's Chinamasa continued his case to the U.N. Human Rights Commission he said that, "If (the U.S.) were respecters of human rights, they would not officially sanction the torture of prisoners of war from Afghanistan and want to unleash a senseless war on Iraq without regard to the human rights of defenseless Iraqi children, mothers and fathers who have endured more than a decade of economic hardships caused by the imposition of sanctions.

"Let the world know that these

nations are not the paragons of virtue, they are not the torch bearers of democracy," he said. "If they were true democrats they would not seek to go to war without the mandate of their own people or a resolution of the international community through the United Nations."

Who does give the U.S. and Britain the right to conform the world to their views of government after all? And if the United States is truly a government "for the people, by the people," would so many outcries for continued patience and diplomacy be so blatantly ignored? Thousands of American citizens have protested this war on Iraq in every major city, on college campuses, on Internet Web sites, and any other possible venue, including traveling to Baghdad and making themselves "human shields" between Iraqi citizens and American bombs. And is it only a coincidence that Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair's foreign minister and top cabinet member, Robin Cook, resigned from parliament along

with at least five other labor ministers, demonstrating his disapproval of the actions of the US?

This U.S. led coalition of troops, that President Bush claims is protecting the security of all nations shows complete disregard to suggestions by other competent leaders in the U.N. who offer other methods of disarmament. The U.N. should be at the center of any solution for this "world" problem since, after all, its mission is to "unite our strength to maintain international peace and security."

Bush is leading this nation full steam ahead into conflict that he says is inevitable, but with a closer look, it can be seen as a war that he knows he has the manpower and technology to win, and no longer wants to give any effort to avoid it.

The U.S., heavily supported by Britain, is manifesting laws that are as old as time; "money equals power," and "those in power make all the rules." •

News

Friendly faces behind the information desk

The Meter has a chat with two amiable employees of TSU

By Ronald Price
News Writer

Author Laird and Martrice Smith are two members of Tennessee State University's staff who love what they do. As the directors of TSU's Floyd Payne Campus Center information desk, they bring joy to students with their warm smiles.

Laird and Smith provide service to students by giving knowledgeable information about any questions that an inquirer might ask. They dispense general information about activities and events that are going on in the student center and around the university.

"A gentleman recently called from Birmingham, Ala., wanting to know how to get to TSU," Laird said.

They also maintain security and safety in the student center. In addition to maintaining control over the large crowds that gather in the student center, the staff of the information desk observes the people and keeps a watchful eye on what strangers are doing.

"They're excellent people and they really have the students' interest at heart," Willie Martin, academic advisor of TSU's Trio Program, said about Laird, Smith and their staff. "They're very knowledgeable. You can always go to

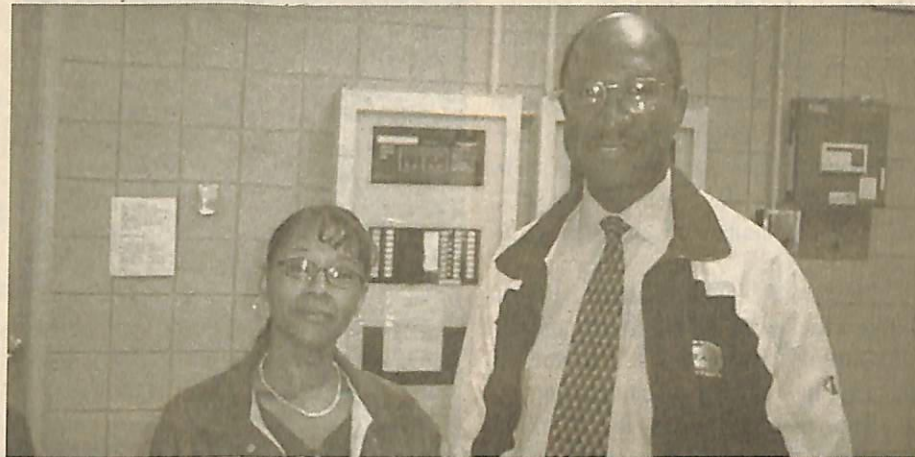


PHOTO BY BRIAN C. BROWLEY

Author Laird and Martrice Smith

them if you need something. They really look out for the students, faculty and staff."

Laird has been serving TSU since 1988. He worked four years as an Air Force lieutenant before coming to TSU. He also is a graduate of the University of Arkansas. Smith, a 2002 TSU graduate with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, has served TSU since 1991.

Kristine Ford, a junior English major who works at the information desk, said that the two employees are great co-workers.

"It's fun working with them," Ford said. "They're very hard workers as well as good people."

Laird and Smith were recently interviewed for the first installation of *The Meter's* "Friendly Faces" column. This

column has been established in order to highlight the administrators, faculty and staff who are helpful and congenial to TSU students.

The Meter: So how do you feel about being the first people featured in *The Meter's* friendly faces column?

Smith: "We are quite flattered."

Laird: "It is such an honor."

The Meter: How do you feel about working with students at TSU?

Laird: "In my opinion, 99.9 percent of the students are a joy to work with. You do have a small portion that may try to be difficult, but for the most part the students are great."

Smith: "I enjoy the students. They are very nice."

The Meter: When is your favorite time

of the year to work at TSU?

Smith: "Homecoming. I love the festivities around campus. There is so much to do. I also love it when the new people come in town to visit the campus. It is so exciting. There is just so much going on."

The Meter: What are some things that your office is working on?

Laird: "We're in the process of putting new projection equipment in the forum room. We have also upgraded the sound equipment for the courtyard."

The Meter: What is the most difficult part of your job?

Laird: "Sometimes just getting things done is harder than it should be on all levels. The administration sometimes takes longer than it should."

The Meter: What is some advice that you would give to other staff members who are servicing students?

Laird: "Provide the service that you would want provided to you if you were to walk into a strange place and not know anybody. Provide the service that you would want to be provided for your children."

The Meter: What are words of wisdom that you would like to give to students?

Laird: "If you want respect, you have to give respect. Treat others the way that you want to be treated."

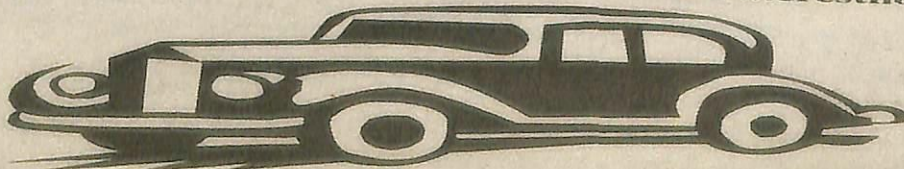
Smith: "Focus on school and respect your elders."*

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News

Kappas under investigation

By Brian C. Browley
Community View Editor

One year after returning from a 10-year suspension, the Alpha Theta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. is under investigation by the organization's regional governing body and could face suspension.

Members of the Alpha Theta chapter and the Office of Student Affairs are withholding details of the investigation, but Prentice "Jerry" Siegel, the fraternity's South Central provincial polemarch said that, "the chapter is not suspended." He would not, however, comment on any disciplinary actions that the chapter may be facing.

"There is an investigation," he said. "There are some things that we are looking into."

Students were suspicious of the chapter's whereabouts after the fraternity pulled out of the Pan Hellenic Council step show the week of Feb. 23. The chapter also halted its practice of dressing in business attire and setting up a table in the Floyd-Payne Campus Center on Wednesdays - a tradition the fraternity initiated after its return from suspension.

The Tennessee State University Kappas have also halted their community service projects at McKissack Professional Development School.

Students said they saw several members of the fraternity with a brand of a diamond around the letter 'K' on their arms, following the week of March 3, which was designated Kappa week for 2003.

"I heard a couple of people say that they got kicked off for getting branded," said Royce Thomson, a sophomore majoring in architectural engineering.

The chapter was in the spotlight regarding branding in 1994 when Wardell Pride, a former TSU student, sued the fraternity, claiming he had been beaten with a cane, poked with needles and branded. Pride served as the president of the chapter prior to the lawsuit. He said these actions, particularly branding, demeaned him.

"This is what slave masters did to slaves," he said in the June 25, 1998, issue of *Black Issues in Higher Education*. "And my only true reward was that I had the opportunity to be a slave master as many times as I want(ed) when (it was) all over."

Although the national fraternity



PHOTO BY BRIAN C. BROWLEY

Members of TSU's Alpha Theta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi are pictured at the 2002 Organizational Fair.

does not punish a chapter for an individual being branded or getting a tattoo, when it is determined that the activity has been forced upon an individual member or pledge, it falls under the fraternity's definition of hazing.

In 1992, TSU and the fraternity's national body suspended the chapter, and the suspension was upheld until spring 2002, when 56 members were initiated

into the organization.

In addition to the branding incidents, the Alpha Theta chapter also has been involved in recent disputes with the Alpha Delta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi at nearby Fisk University. Among these were fights at the TSU Kappas' fraternity house, located behind the university on Tigerbelle Drive, and at a nightclub during an event hosted by the TSU chapter.

A listing of suspended chapters in the South Central Province on the Kappa's Web site does not include the TSU chapter. If the provincial body were to mandate a suspension, the university would enforce it, according to Ronald Myles, the director of student activities at TSU.

"Many times they will impose a sanction on the organization and, (given) the relationship we have with them, of course, we would support that sanction," Myles said. "And vice versa. If we impose a sanction we expect the regional, national, or whomever to support our sanction. All organizations are invited to be on this campus by our invitation. (There's) nothing in the law that says we have to have any fraternity or sorority charter on this campus."*

Frat loves hate wall

By Chandra Walton
News Writer

The Alpha Theta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. engendered love toward's their organization this year via an ironic, yet eye-catching, display of students' hate.

During the week of March 3, the 46-member chapter reserved one wall in the Floyd-Payne Campus Center as an outlet for people who in the past have vandalized the group's wall displays and ridiculed members of the fraternity. Nicknamed "pretty boys," the frat brothers this year invited outsiders that they call haters to have their full say about the chapter.

This expression of negative comments grasped the attention of other students and some sympathy for the fraternity.

"I want to know who really takes time out of their lives to come and write something on this wall," said Victoria Walker, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. "I mean, you obviously are hating if you take the time and do all this. If you were real, you would write what you had to say in front of them instead of at night."

David Truesdale, vice president of the Alpha Theta chapter, said he is proud of the impact his fraternity's wall project had on campus because it showed hate for what it really is. He said that this year's wall ironically paid homage to those who have ridiculed them for years.

"...(P)eople put a lot of effort into the way our wall looked (in past years)," Truesdale said. "They took the time out of their busy lives to print out and paste over our founders and write degrading things about us. So, (this

year) the wall was a tribute to them.... we dedicated our theme to them....(T)hey helped us."

"Gay A Psi" and "Gay Nu Pi," implying that the fraternity's "pretty boy" image is commingled with homosexuality, were two of the comments placed on the hate wall. Still another name was "56 Paper Kuts," implying that members of the fraternity's latest line of entrants merely signed a contract and paid dues, but didn't work hard to become members.

A commentary published in *The Meter* that mentioned the fraternity was posted on the wall, along with a mirror so that people who displayed hate messages could see themselves.

"I thought the mirror was a real cute idea," said student Michelle Davis. "That was pretty smooth. The wall was well done also." In contrast to those who posted messages conveying that

they hate the Kappas, Davis said, "I like them. People just need to get a life."

Each spring semester the Office of Student Affairs allots one week to each of the nine Greek organizations to decorate the second floor of the student center. These weeks give the Greek organizations an opportunity to attract attention to themselves and generate interest in membership, particularly among freshmen.

Some critics said the Kappa fraternity members perpetuate the notion that people hate them just so they can make it seem as if people envy them.

"I don't think we promote people to hate on us," Truesdale responded....(Y)ou can't help who you are. A lot of people want to be in our position. Alpha Theta is about brotherhood and we are for the kids."*

Community View

Mississippi mayor is recognized as a TSU Tiger

Continued from page 1

Johnson has not been given the same recognition as other TSU alumni.

Some students feel that civil servants are not given as much respect when compared to well-known entertainers or athletes from TSU.

"I think in some ways TSU doesn't really follow up on all its alumni," said junior civil engineering major Hugh Foster, who also is a Mississippi native. "It overshadows some alumni and doesn't give as much credit as it gives to others. Since he's not a millionaire or a billionaire like Oprah... they probably don't give him the respect he deserves."

Despite the seeming lack of recognition by his alma mater, Johnson still makes an effort to visit the university annually.

"I try to get up there once a year," he said. "The campus has really grown and changed a lot. I'm very proud of where TSU is right now. I wish and hope the best for it as one of the preeminent institutions in the country."

Johnson displayed his love for TSU when he chose to attend this school despite the geographic closeness to several other historically Black colleges and universities near his hometown of Vicksburg, Miss.

"My senior year in high school I visited TSU during homecoming and really fell in love with the campus and the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAYOR HARVEY JOHNSON'S OFFICE AND TSU SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Harvey Johnson Jr. is pictured at left speaking at a State of the City Address in Jackson, Miss. and right in 1967 in the organizational photo for Alpha Phi Alpha in *The Tennessean* yearbook.

whole notion of going to school there," Johnson said. "We had some home people there and they would rant and rave about TSU. I felt I would get a more well-rounded and broader educational experience (because) people from all parts of the country gathered at TSU."

The years Johnson attended TSU were much different from those we know today. He said that Blacks at that time were all "a product of that Jim Crow system of segregation," but he attributed his success and will to having a built-in family support system of older relatives.

While attending TSU, Johnson was involved in the AFROTC, the student senate, and the Beta Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. After graduating, he enlisted in the Air Force and served as an officer. The experiences Johnson gained while in the service were also an important part of his resolve.

"Both my wife and I grew up a lot in the military," Johnson said. "Oftentimes I was one of few, if not the only African-American officer there. I had to be flexible enough to adapt to that environment.... You do have resistance and some of that is based off race."

After leaving the military, Johnson returned to Mississippi to serve his community in a civil servant capacity. Despite his determination and hard work, he lost his first attempt at elected office in 1985 when he ran for city council. His next campaign was for mayor of Jackson in 1993 and it also resulted in failure. However, this did not deter him.

Finally, in 1997 Johnson accomplished his goal and became the first Black to be elected mayor in Jackson.

"I felt very pleased that people had seen fit to entrust the leadership of the city to me," Johnson said. "That was a

very rewarding feeling to me. Being the first African-American mayor was humbling. It's not the kind of feeling you can explain."

However, simply winning the election was far from the last goal on Johnson's mind when he took office.

"The goal is trying to move the city forward," he said. "If you lose sight of that goal, being elected the first African-American mayor could be tainted."

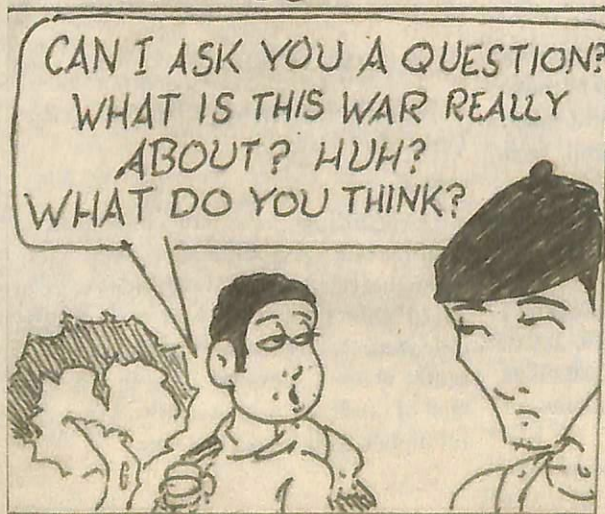
Johnson's pride for the city was one of the reasons the city adopted the slogan, "The Best of the New South."

"We have good people," he said. "We have major institutions of higher learning, including two excellent HBCUs located in our city.... We have a lot going for us and there is no reason that we can't (represent) the best of the new south."

Johnson is quick to admit that the education he received at TSU is a large part of the philosophy he uses to lead the city and that it remains useful in today's society.

"I think that HBCUs are very important no matter what time of history you are in," he said. "Students attending an HBCU should take advantage of the learning environment that is created there not only academically, but also socially and culturally. I think HBCUs offer... an opportunity to explore a broader base of knowledge and make you better rounded as a person, and as an African-American in particular."*

HYPOCRITES



I MEAN, WE ARE ABOUT TO WAGE WAR WITH IRAQ AND I, ALONG WITH 50% OF THIS COUNTRY, DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THIS WAR IS ABOUT! I HEAR IT'S ABOUT THE OIL, THEN BUSH'S OWN VENDETTA, THEN WEAPONS! WHAT'S NEXT?! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

CHRISTOPHER SISNEY



Community View

"The Masturbation Monologues"



Gregory Brand
Layout Editor

Body & Mind

Exploring the health and sex habits of TSU's student body

Ask anyone on campus, and nine people out of 10 will deny doing it. Some supremely bashful individuals would probably even claim to have never tried it. And former Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders lost her job for making

comments in regard to the supposedly taboo subject of masturbation.

Masturbation is defined as the touching or manipulation of one's sexual organs in an effort to feel sexual pleasure alone and unassisted. This practice is said to be completely harmless as well as an essential part of one's journey into adulthood.

Much of Elders' teachings dealt with the understanding and practice of safe sex as well as the importance of learning the parts of the human anatomy. She believed this full understanding of the human body was achieved by tasting the waters on one's self before even attempting to "do" anyone else.

Under the Clinton administration this was an extremely radical mode of thought and it seemed to scare a lot of our country's "big wigs." So much in fact that a woman who faithfully advocated the acceptance of safe sex and alternative lifestyles was asked to resign from her position of office.

Is masturbation worth the denial of

the general populous, a hush when spoken of or the loss of jobs?

Although carrying negative titles like "spanking the monkey" and "jacking off," leading sex professionals on allaboutsex.org said that around 60 percent of the male population and 41 percent of the female population "pleasure" themselves at least two times a week. (Yikes) They even go on to say that those numbers aren't completely accurate because of what they call the "denial factor." They believe that some of their sources could be lying.

Tennessee State University students hold firm to the belief that masturbation is not the pastime practice it is said to be across the globe. Most of the students I approached with the issue said that they were not at all interested in that mode of sexual exploration.

"I don't masturbate at all," said freshman undecided major Jerome Tatum. "It's a waste of time. I could spend my time doing anything else."

The Holy Bible even advises against

the wasting of one's seed in Ephesians 2:8,9. That issue brings about questions and controversy in masturbation for women. While men lose semen in the aftermath of personally inflicted sexual manipulation, women do not. Are women immune? And with sexual education men are supposedly gaining about themselves while performing this act, is it fair to say that they are wasting their seeds?

These questions will probably never be answered due to the hush mentality surrounding this "supposedly" disturbing subject. While reading, researching, and reporting for this issue, I learned a lot about the politics associated with speaking out and acknowledging a practice that is "theoretically" considered personal.

"Although I don't masturbate anymore, I wouldn't knock anyone who does," said a female student who wishes to remain anonymous. "It's natural and it's their body."•

Morris Brown possibly awards its last 370 degrees

Community View Briefs

Morris Brown College awarded 370 degrees Sunday, March 16, in what could very well be the university's last commencement. The college was forced to abbreviate its semester to seven weeks to ensure that graduating seniors would receive a degree from an accredited institution. Losing accreditation also would make it harder for graduates to gain admission to graduate schools and would prevent graduates from taking some professional licensing examinations.

Morris Brown was founded in 1881 and is located in the Atlanta University Center, which includes Morehouse, Spelman, and Clark-Atlanta.

The college still has an opportunity

for survival. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will meet April 2 to hear an appeal of its December 2002 decision to revoke Morris Brown's accreditation. It is scrambling to come up with a plan to pay off \$27 million in debt before the appeal hearing to regain its



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.MORRIS-BROWN.EDU/

Morris Brown College may have conducted its final commencement exercise.

regional accreditation. The United Negro College Fund gave the school \$1.4 million in an effort to support the survival of the institution. Individual donations can be made at any Bank of America or Citizens Trust Bank.

Gas prices reach an all-time high

According to the Energy Information Administration, gasoline prices leapt another 1.6 cents the week of March 16 to a nationwide average of \$1.728 per gallon. This hike surpassed the record high set in May 2001.

The EIA has predicted that prices will continue to rise at the pump because of high crude oil costs and should reach an average of \$1.76 per gallon next month.

The average price in Nashville for regular unleaded gasoline at self-service pumps has reached an all-time high of \$1.68. The previous record on gas prices was \$1.60, which was set May 29, 2001.

The prices are so steep some students are considering alternative means of transportation.

"(Prices) are high and they are only going to get worse," said junior art major Brandon King. "I might have to break my

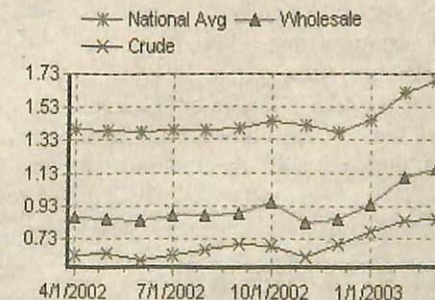


IMAGE COURTESY OF WWW.AAA.COM

12 Month Average For Regular Unleaded Fuel.

bike out."

According to the American Automobile Association's Web site, www.fuelgaugereport.com, prices were at \$1.26 this time last year for regular unleaded. A large reason prices are currently at their elevated state is the high cost of crude oil, which is now \$13 a barrel higher than it was last year.

Brian Browley•

Community View

Birth control users face common side effects, benefits

By **Brian C. Browley**
Community View Editor

There are numerous factors for women to consider before starting a birth control method. Most of the hormonal contraceptive methods have side effects that need to be discussed with their physicians.

With the pill, the patch, the shot, and the return of the sponge to the market in recent weeks, methods of birth control have become more accessible and affordable than ever. And with so many options available it is imperative that the patient is fully informed, a responsibility shared by the patient and the physician.

"What we recommend depends on the woman," said Mark Hoffman, Planned Parenthood vice president of education and training. "The real question is which is most suitable for you."

In recent weeks Ortho Evra, more commonly known as the patch, has become one of the most readily requested methods of birth control due to its convenience and low rate of side effects.

"If I could recommend that to everyone I would," said Eileen Petralia, a nurse practitioner who works at the St. Thomas Medical Center in Nashville. "There are some limits as far as insurance coverage and that dictates a large part of what we can and cannot prescribe."

"That's the hot ticket now, you put



COLLAGE BY BRIAN C. BROWLEY

The pill, shot, patch and sponge provide more birth control options than ever before.

the patch on once a week and you don't have to worry about it. It doesn't fall off in the shower so it's very convenient for young people and even for older people."

According to Petralia, taking the pill is the birth control method that causes the greatest side effects, despite having over 50 varieties of it available. The next most common method with side effects is the Depo-Provera injection, and lastly the Ortho Evra patch.

With the return of the contraceptive sponge yet another option is available that is up to 99 percent effective when properly used. However, the sponge does not come without its problems also.

"That is one that we will begin to recommend," Petralia said. "But it is

very cumbersome and messy and it's not one that people would typically choose when they have other options, but it is an option and when used properly it's just as effective in preventing pregnancy."

The side effects for the most common methods are not always negative. Some of the positive side effects are reduced risk of ovarian and uterine cancer, decreased menstrual pain and bleeding, and prevention of ovarian cysts. The birth control pill Ortho Tricyclen is also well known as a treatment for mild cases of acne. According to Petralia, if an individual "wasn't able to tolerate (the more common) methods we can get a pre-approval on the patch, but generally they have to try other methods first."

"They are all 99 percent effective. Of course none of them prevent STDs, but they all protect against pregnancy at the same rate if you take them as prescribed," she said.

As long as methods of contraception have been available, there have been various myths that accompany them. There are also misconceptions that often arise regarding "safe times" during a woman's menstrual cycle.

"One thing that does happen is people think the pill will protect against STDs," Hoffman said. "Also among teens there is confusion about 'safe time.' The truth about that is no matter when they are on their period, they can get pregnant."

The use of hormonal birth control method is not the only recommended means of protection, although their failure rates are the lowest with the exception of abstinence, which still is the most highly recommended method of birth control.

"Every patient that is placed on birth control we always discuss first with them abstinence, and secondly condoms," Petralia said. "Abstinence and condoms are the only ways to prevent STDs."

"It is our responsibility as a health care provider to discuss the whole body and part of that is family planning, whether it be abstinence or contraceptive management."

Campus and Community Calendar

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| March 27 TSU Retention Sessions First-Year Students Program Wilson Residence Center, basement 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. | March 30 Greek Week begins Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated | Strictly for the Sexy: Stepper's Set Club Caliente 10 p.m. | Hakim Rahsul & Co. (Jazz Ensemble) Kijiji Coffee House 6 p.m. |
| March 28 TSU Chess Club Crouch Hall, Rm. 210 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Hakim Rahsul & Co. (Jazz Ensemble) Kijiji Coffee House 6 p.m. | April 1 Window Onto Culture International Student Affairs Floyd Payne Campus Center, Rm. 210 TSU Retention Sessions First-Year Students Program Wilson Residence Center, basement 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. | April 3 Jazz Concert First-Year Students Program Humanities Bldg, T.E. Poag Auditorium TBA TSU Retention Sessions First-Year Students Program Wilson Residence Center, basement 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. | April 6 Student Election Week begins |
| March 29 Women's Leadership Conference Floyd Payne Campus Center, Rm. 319 9:30 a.m. | April 2 Miss Big and Beautiful Pageant Kean Hall 7 p.m. | April 4 TSU Chess Club Crouch Hall, Rm. 210 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m. | April 8 Retention Sessions First-Year Students Program Wilson Residence Center, basement 2 p.m.-4 p.m. |
| | | | April 9 New issue of <i>The Meter</i> released Power Hour Floyd Payne Campus Center, Rm. 210 |


Community View



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OPENS NATIONWIDE MARCH 28

Picks of the Pack

Has President Bush made a good case for war against Iraq?



Name: Tanzye Phill
Major: Elementary education
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: Memphis
 "I agree with President Bush in going to war. I feel he's making the right decision. He has a lot of information that everybody else doesn't necessarily have and based on that, he's using his best instincts."



Name: Shun Golden
Major: History
Classification: Sophomore
Hometown: Jackson, Tenn.
 "Yes, (Saddam) has had 12 years to disarm and he hasn't done it. So, yes, Bush made his case."



Name: Jarrod Uddin
Major: Mass Communications
Classification: Junior
Hometown: Detroit
 "I think that Bush has made a decision that will benefit us as well as the Iraqis. They have been trying to get rid of Saddam for quite some time now. Although we have to support our leader, I feel that he is not taking enough of the considerations of the American people."



Name: Toccara Houston
Major: English
Classification: Senior
Hometown: Columbia, Tenn.
 "No, I think it's purely personal and he should not have to take the country's money in order to take out a personal vendetta. I think it's going to come back to us in the worst way."

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Classifieds

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On March 26 Walgreen's is hosting interviews for internships and permanent employment for business and other majors in the Career Center, Suite 304

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The United States Customs Service will be hosting an information session for criminal justice majors at 4 p.m. in the Career Center, Conference Room.

TSU YEARBOOK NEEDS HELP

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at 963-5555

to become a writer for the Arts and Entertainment Section of *The Meter*.

The Meter will be holding an **INFORMATIONAL SESSION** on April 21 at 5 p.m. in *The Meter* office Room 304, Kean Hall

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Employment Opportunity

On March 27 Union Planters will be testing at the downtown campus for business majors for future employment. It will be held in suite K.

Svedrup will be holding interviews for permanent employment in the Career Center, Suite 304 for electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and computer science majors.

A 2.5 grade point average or above is required for consideration.

STREET TEAM

The Meter

is currently putting together a Street Team to circulate the issues for the rest of this semester and the fall semester. If interested please contact
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Arts & Entertainment

The struggle against stereotypes is far from over



By The Hilltop editorial board
Black College Wire

In the new film "Bringing Down the House," starring Queen Latifah and Steve Martin, Latifah's character is a loud, ill-mannered and utterly classless person who confirms this stereotype of black women. The movie reminds us that our struggle is far from over.

Not much has changed since the days when white audiences cheered the racist film "Birth of a Nation" in 1915. Perhaps the message is not as blatant, but it is clear: Blacks are a subclass with laughable tendencies.

Chris Rock and Bernie Mac are starring in the soon-to-be-released "Head of State," which ridicules the possibility of a black man in the White House. The sad part is that such a movie would be released around the time that two blacks, Al Sharpton and Carol



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKCOL-
LEGEWIRE.ORG

Steve Martin stars along Queen Latifah in "Bringing Down the House."

Mosley Braun, have announced their plans to run for president.

The movie "Barbershop" was another film that re-inscribed the common stereotypes assigned to black people.

It is sad that black people not only are accepting these roles without resistance, but we are paying the money to go see these films that aim to make us look stupid.

Are we beginning to accept these images of ourselves? Are we content with being seen as a people who only eat chicken, drink malt liquor and listen to rap music?

We should never be comfortable with these stereotypes. As students, we should be the ones who aim to defeat these images. We should not support movies that we know are not accurately reflecting who we are. These portrayals are unacceptable. It is up to us to strive to change the way Hollywood has established the black character.

Come "C" what God's will "4" your life is.

The members of *The Church Of Christ College Connection (C-4)* would like invite anyone and everyone to our weekly Bible studies here on campus in the **Floyd-Payne Campus Center room 217**, every Thursday night beginning at 7:00pm.

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Arts & Entertainment

Lyricist Lounge

A Blessing
By Chaundra Huggis

God has blessed me with so many things,
For that I am eternally grateful.
I have been blessed with a loving family,
Beautiful friends, and a wonderful fiancé.
I am blessed to still be among the living.
I have been blessed to be able to see 2003.
I have my health, strength, and I am in my right mind.
My family is doing fine; my friends are all right,
And although my fiancé is miles away, he is doing fine too.
I am thankful to God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon me,
And for blessing me to see this day. •



Compact DISCUSSION Ratings:

- 5/5: Instant Classic.
- 4/5: Ground-breaking.
- 3/5: OK album, worth a listen.
- 2/5: Buy the bootlegged copy.
- 1/5: Don't waste your money on it.

Wayne Wonder
No Holding Back- 4/5



PHOTO COURTESY OF ATLANTIC RECORDS

Wayne Wonder

Veteran dancehall soulman Wayne Wonder bursts out into American nightclubs and onto dance floors with his first stateside release on the Atlantic imprint titled *No Holding Back*.

The Jamaican native honed his vocal singing skills in the church choirs of his hometown of Buff Bay in Portland, Ore. The lessons he learned in church shine through in his rich vocals and artistic range.

Unlike many of his fellow singing dancehall musicians, Wonder can sing with the passion and spirit Jamaican singers are known for, yet he presents a style and delivery that is distinctly classic soul music.

Be prepared for a smooth and malleable tenor that never cracks while simultaneously making you want to break it down on the dance floor.

On the radio friendly, bass thumping ode to the beautiful Black woman *No Letting Go*, Wonder puts down one of the album's most endearing and honest love jams. The production wraps effortlessly around the sensual lyrics to project the vibe of slow jam passion.

He even pulls the cords of sexual insinuation on the driving beat of *Glad You Came* and the Elephant Man featured *Crazy Feelings*.

The repetitive rhythms, or "rid-dums," give the album the kind of energy that makes it a classic dance album, whether the beat is fast or slow.

Not to be out done by his American R&B crooning counterparts who praise pimping and partying, the radio-ready gem *Friend Like Me* gently urges a

THE ONLY THING WHITE IS THE HOUSE

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HEAD of STATE

DREAMWORKS PICTURES PRESENTS CHRIS ROCK 'HEAD OF STATE' A 3 ARTS ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION
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EDITED BY STEPHEN A. ROTTER PRODUCTION DESIGNER STEVEN JORDAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DONALD E. THORIN, ASC EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS EZRA SWERDLOW
PRODUCED BY ALI LEROI CHRIS ROCK MICHAEL ROTENBERG WRITTEN BY CHRIS ROCK & ALI LEROI DIRECTED BY CHRIS ROCK

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Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
LANGUAGE, SOME DRUG USE, AND SEXUAL REFERENCES

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lovely lady to dump the loser and "holla at a champ."

Interesting tracks lining the album from beginning to end, like the infectious *Enemies* and the mournful *The Saddest Day*, display the range of Wonder's talent.

The album's only drawback comes from the record label, not Wonder. In the effort to make a successful American release, some of Wonder's tracks seem a little commercialized. However, after listening to *No Holding Back* the world should fully understand why this man is a living legend.

Overall the album is great.

Watch out! Wayne Wonder will take you on a Jamaican getaway; have a good time.

Gregory Brand•

F.Y.I.
Wayne Wonder's groundbreaking album comes to the country on the same Atlantic/VP record label merger that brought reggae/hip-hop phenomenon Sean Paul.

Arts & Entertainment

Meter Minute: Dave Chappelle

Comedian Dave Chappelle Tries "to Reinvent the Wheel"

By Trina Logan
Black College Wire

Picture a stock boy in a toy store.

You watch this guy every Friday and Saturday yelling at kids for stealing, placing Nintendos inside cases and Barbies and G.I. Joes on the toy store's shelves. Then, one night, the guy in the toy store quits after earning \$50 at a comedy club. We're talking about the hilarious Dave Chappelle.

Born in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 23, 1972, Chappelle started out telling jokes on the streets and later progressed to opening in local comedy clubs. His first comedy hour, on HBO in 2000, was "Killin' Them Softly," where he discussed his personal life and gave detailed observations about characters on the children's show "Sesame Street."

Some fans may remember him as a regular act on "Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam."

"Def Jam didn't give me my start like it did Chris Tucker and Bernie Mac," said Chappelle during a phone interview. "If you did Def Jam on Friday, people will notice you at the mall or buy tickets for your show in that area, but that's it."

Chappelle is most known for his film roles in Mel Brooks' "Robin Hood: Men In Tights"

(1993), "Half Baked" (1998) and "Undercover Brother" (2002). He has also played opposite Eddie Murphy and Tommy Davidson.

Chappelle's comedic material is so



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKCOLLEGEWIRE.COM

Dave Chappelle

wild that when he guest-starred on "The Best D**n Sports Show," they tried to censor him. "I don't know why they bleeped my comments out. They asked me what was my sports fantasy and all I said was a three-way with Venus and Serena," said Chappelle.

Chappelle has been staying busy with his new "The Dave Chappelle Show" on Comedy Central.

"We've already done 10 shows, expect some material on Michael Jackson because that guy is taking up time on two different networks," said Chappelle. "I want this show to be funny while I talk about life, stuff I'm

going through and just have fun with the audience."

Asked at Howard University what separated his television show from other variety programs, he said, "I'm just trying to reinvent the wheel, push the envelope, and be funny."

Chappelle spoke about a street comedian named Charles Burnett, who he said was legendary.

"I was 18 and I used to watch him perform comedy on the train and in the streets. He actually showed me how to perform with no microphone, cover charge or drinks in front of you," said Chappelle. "He stayed in the hospital from '92 to '95 and then he died. If I stopped doing television and movies today, because of him I would still be able to make money doing street comedy."

Trina Logan is a student at North Carolina A&T State University who writes for The A&T Register.

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Sports

Hicks plays hard in softball



By Tamika L. Jefferson
Sports Editor

With 17 years of experience, Shannon Hicks was destined to be successful in the game of softball at Tennessee State University as the starting pitcher for the last three years.

She leads TSU's team in fielding percentage (1.00), put outs (12) and innings pitched (5.0) and is second in batters struck out (4) in two games this season. In the 2002 season, she ranked second on the team in batting averages (.331), in hits (45) and was ranked within the top five spots in most categories on the Tigers' team. In the Ohio Valley Conference, Hicks was ranked seventh last season in batting averages and she also won Honorable Mention on the 2001 OVC Softball All-Conference



PHOTO BY BRIAN C. BROWLEY

Shannon Hicks

team.

"If I had to go to war and I had to take one person with me, it would be Shannon because she is all heart," said Joyce Maudie, head coach of the softball team. "I don't know anyone who is more passionate about playing the game."

Hicks attends TSU primarily to play Division I softball and so she can stay "close to home." She is originally from Smyrna, Tenn., and is on an athletic and

minority scholarship majoring in human performance sports science with a 3.7 grade point average. She plans to graduate in December 2003 and then enroll in TSU's graduate program in 2004 in order to finish playing her last year of eligibility.

NCAA rules permit graduate students who attend the same school at which they earned their undergraduate degree to participate in athletics if they have eligibility remaining and participate within five years of their original, full-time enrollment.

"When she sets her mind to do something, she gets it done," said teammate Melissa Tosst, a senior majoring in HPSS. "She is really a hard worker and she is very supportive with me as well as the team."

After receiving her master's degree in physical education, Hicks wants to attend Tennessee Tech University and get a licensed practitioner's nurse degree and return to TSU's LPN registered nurse program to get an associate's degree.

"Although I'll have a nursing degree, with my master's in physical

education, I can coach softball on the high school or collegiate level," Hicks said.

Her typical day begins with class from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and she practices from 3-6 p.m. During the off-season, she works from 7-11 p.m., but during the season she chills at home and studies.

Hicks said she recognizes that being a student athlete places one in a unique position.

"Everyone expects a lot more out of you," she said. "You must represent the school at all times, whether you are at the mall or out to dinner with your family."

Her advice for incoming freshmen wanting to pursue being a student athlete is to stay calm.

"Take it all in stride and never stop working hard," she said.

In her spare time she plays basketball, spends time with her boyfriend or hangs out with her crew, Slap 7.

"It is just a group of seven girls from the team that hangs out together," Hicks joked. "Slap is just a game we play. It is nothing freaky."•

Lady Tiger golf team begins a rocky first season

By Brandon G. Talford
Sports Writer

The Tennessee State University Lady Tiger golf team is looking to improve in the team's first season after placing last in their first tournament in late February at the Mercer Intercollegiate Classic in Macon, Ga.

The team also struggled during spring break as it trailed the field of nine teams in the Murray State Lady Racer Classic in Murray, Ky., with a total of 879. Host MSU won the tournament with 647. During this same week, TSU trailed a field of 13 teams in the Winthrop University Shamrock Intercollegiate Tournament in Rock Hill, S.C.

"Being a first year program we are slowly on our way to success," said Ashley Davis, a freshman from Toronto, Canada.

While the overall team is making adjustments to its first year of collegiate

"I was very pleased with the effort and positive attitudes that the young ladies displayed throughout a tough tournament,"

-Glenn Steimling

competition, the team did have its first-ever top 10 finisher with Davis placing eighth at Murray State. She tied with a 36-hole total of 166. The Lady Tigers are looking for her to shoot a low number at every tournament.

"I was very pleased with the effort and positive attitudes that the young ladies displayed throughout a tough tournament," head coach Glenn Steimling said.

In order to improve and win in their next tournament, the Lady Tigers realize that they must not only play well as a team, but they must play well

individually.

"I feel (our) team is progressing and now that the weather is a bit better, we should be able to get out a lot more and practice in which will help in our success," Davis said.

She again led TSU in the WU tournament with three rounds of 90 to finish with a 270 and in a tie for 40th place. The other Lady Tigers, freshman Morgan Brown, sophomore Kathy Temple, and juniors Tiyana Bullock, Rayya Ghani and Amanda Tibbs, must shoot below a score of 400 in each tournament in order to keep TSU competitive in the team's

upcoming tournaments.

"I am pleased and honored to be the coach of the first women's golf team at TSU," Steimling said. "The six women on the team are a great group of young ladies to work with and I feel truly blessed to be a part of this squad."

As the Lady Tigers embark on a challenging first season, they expect to have some ups and downs during the year.

"As a new program, I know we will have some rough spots to work through this season, but I am confident that we will improve from tourney to tourney and represent TSU well at the OVC championship at the end of April," Steimling said.

The Lady Tiger golf team and a complete listing of their schedule can be viewed at tsutigers.com Web site. •

Sports

Negative media attention played role in Phillips' decision

Continued from page 1

was a pretty good voice in my ear. She had some good insight on the game. I really appreciated the fact that she let me have a lot of input. I thought it was a good experience."

Maurice Patton, a TSU sports-writer for *The Tennessean*, said he engaged in a long discussion with Phillips about this matter and he agreed that Graves was "a bit young and out manned," and they needed another mind on the bench. Graves said Phillips trusted him to do the "x's and o's" during the game such as calling plays and making substitutions, while she taught the players "more of the philosophy and style of basketball."

Phillips is a 1980 Vanderbilt University graduate with a bachelor's degree in economics and business education. After a brief stint as Fisk University's head women's basketball coach, she came to TSU in 1989. In 11 seasons, she posted a 150-151 overall record and captured an OVC regular season crown in the 1993-94 season.

"I stand by the decision I made because it was the best decision under the circumstances."

-Teresa Phillips

"It was an administration decision.... I was a former coach and our program was getting national media attention for having a problematic program," Phillips said. "(Graves) has never taken a leadership role as far as teaching or directing the team. I did not feel confident that he could handle the team. With all the frustrations, I felt as a professional it was my responsibility to step in and let the team know somebody cared, that somebody wanted to take charge. I did what I had to do to protect this program and to take proper control, or guide them under all the pressure.

"I stand by the decision I made because it was the best decision under

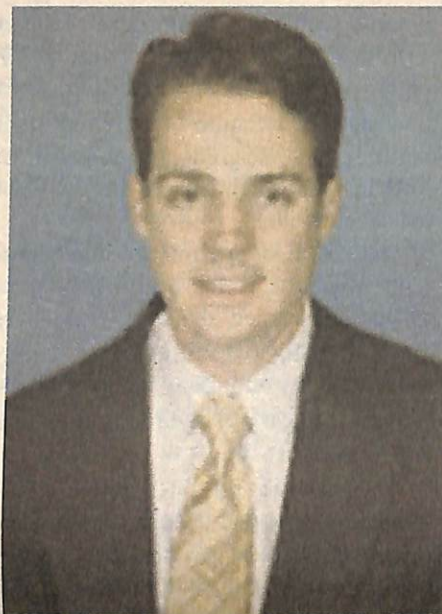


PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Chris Graves

the circumstances. It gave him more confidence working with me and he learned to be more aggressive with the players."

The interim head coach, Hosea Lewis, was serving a one-game suspension for a brawl during a game against Eastern Kentucky on Feb. 10 in which 19 players were ejected and former head coach Nolan Richardson III had resigned for bringing a gun into the Gentry Center after a confrontation with Lewis on Christmas. These factors left the Tigers shorthanded on coaches.

"Graves was the next coach in line and I couldn't see why he wasn't given the chance to do the job he is getting paid to do," said Kquinn Donald, a junior majoring in art. "I, as well as the media, was so into watching Phillips' reactions and coaching strategies, that nobody was really paying attention to the game that much."

Sophomore forward Roshawn Bowens pointed out that it was just one game and everything was the same. He said that nothing Phillips said to the team steered them in the wrong direction, and all the advice she gave was accurate within the systems they were used to.

"I didn't think it was a big deal, until I got home that night from practice with her and (saw) the news," he said. "Even when I found out what was the big deal, it still wasn't that serious to me."

Graves, a native of Dallas, attended John Brown University in Siloam

Springs, Ark., where he played basketball, but an injury forced him to the sidelines. His former coach John Sheehy asked him to serve as a student coach and later while receiving his bachelor's degree in education, he became the assistant coach for the 1998-99 season. He gained valuable experience working at numerous summer camps under such big name coaches like University of Kentucky's Tubby Smith and University of Utah's Rick Majerus.

He joined the TSU coaching staff on a temporary basis in 2001, coming from the staff of former legendary Arkansas State head coach Nolan Richardson II. He served as a volunteer assistant and later as a graduate assistant with the Razorbacks while working on his master's degree in exercise physiology.

Phillips acknowledged that Graves "really knows a lot of basketball." During the last two years, she realized he wasn't vocal with the players because that was not the style of previous coaches that he has worked with.

In a TSU Performance Evaluation Administration/Professional Personnel document dated June 17, 2002, Richardson evaluated Graves' performance and his strength was "leadership." He needed to improve his delegating during practices and he needed to broaden game more.

Graves says he has aspirations of becoming a head coach one day, but is enjoying traveling down the path of assistant coaching so he can make sure he learns everything.

"You hear about coaches having a few good seasons, then you don't hear about them anymore," he said. "I want to have some staying power in this business. I want some longevity."

He added that he feels one of his main duties, as an assistant coach, is to help develop boys into men, deeming a lot of people would have quit under the circumstances surrounding TSU's team.

"Your character determines your destiny," Graves said. "Every day we have a choice to decide how we are going to handle adversity. If you are going to quit now, think about how easy it is to quit in the future."

TSU timeline

Fall 2000 - Nolan Richardson III is named TSU head basketball coach.

Fall 2000 - Hosea Lewis is hired as an assistant basketball coach.

June 2001 - Chris Graves is an assistant basketball coach on a temporary basis.

April 30, 2002 - Three-time interim AD Teresa Phillips accepts the full-time position.

October 2002 - NCAA begins investigation of the basketball program.

Fall 2002 - Graves becomes an assistant basketball coach on a permanent basis.

Dec. 25, 2002 - Richardson retrieves a gun from the trunk of his car after an argument with assistant coach Hosea Lewis and brings it into the Gentry Center.

Dec. 26, 2002 - Richardson is suspended indefinitely. Lewis becomes interim head coach.

Jan. 8, 2003 - Richardson resigns.

Feb. 10, 2003 - Against Eastern Kentucky, 19 players were ejected after bench clearing brawl.

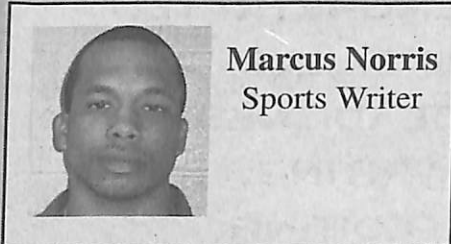
Feb. 11, 2003 - Interim head coach Lewis is on a one-game suspension due to the brawl at Eastern Kentucky.

Feb. 13, 2003 - AD Phillips makes history, becoming the first woman to coach a Division I basketball game against Austin Peay, losing 71-56.

Sports

Talkin' I.S.H. (Intelligent Sports Humor)

Love of My Life



Marcus Norris
Sports Writer

The African-American Studies Department is going to love this...

I've tried to fight it for as long as I could. I denied my impulses, chose not to reveal my true feelings. I figured that as all things, this too should pass. Eventually the conflicting emotions that were inside my consciousness would have to run their course because they had to be inherently wrong. God wouldn't want me to feel this way, would he?

I refuse to run from my true feelings any longer, so I'm just going to come out and say it.

I...Marcus Justin Norris...am...in love with...a white woman (Ah, gurl, get the gun!!!).

That's right, I said it, a white girl. A student athlete in fact (no, not here at TSU. Although that Jennifer Corral on the volleyball team is definitely a hot gurl). Nope, my heart is reserved for a one Toni Smith, a women's basketball player at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y.

I remember the exact moment when I realized I loved her, too. It was after a long night at my place of employment (I'm not saying where 'cause I don't want anybody asking me for free stuff anymore). While at work, I devised five new fool-proof plans on how to kill my boss and make it look like an accident. When I got home at about 1 a.m., I turned on my television and as usual I was tuned in to ESPN (Side note: Why do I have cable? All I ever watch is Sportscenter, RapCity, and VH1: Behind the Music). That's when I first saw the apple of my eye, the peanut butter to my jelly, the Ashanti to my Ja (Fool, will you get on with the story!)

OK, OK. ESPN was doing a story on Toni because she was pulling a Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf (a.k.a. Chris Jackson). While the national anthem was being played before the game, Toni (my girl) would turn away from the flag and

"...the government's priorities are not bettering the qualities of life for all of its people, but expanding its own power," and "I can no longer, in good conscience, salute the flag."

-Toni Smith

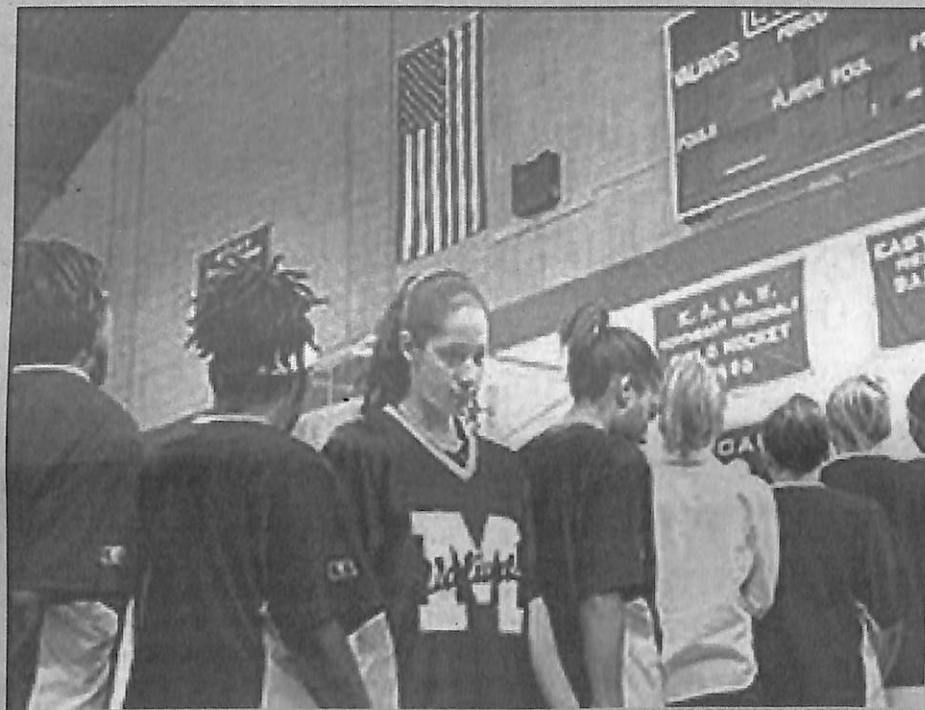


PHOTO COURTESY OF ESPN.COM

Quiet protest: Toni Smith turns her back to the flag as the pregame anthem is played.

hold her head down. Toni had been doing so since somewhere between the terrorist attacks on 9-11 and President Bush's (huh huh, our president's name is Bush and our vice president's name is Dick, huh huh) plan for military action in Iraq. Her actions had gone largely unnoticed until when at a recent game, a former Vietnam veteran ran out onto the floor with an American flag and held it squarely in Smith's face. He tried to intimidate her, destroy her beliefs, "Suge Knight" her into falling in line with the other two billion or so people in this country who so mindlessly and blindly support the actions of the government and use the American flag as a shield to hide all the wrong that is carried out in its (and our) name (Ah snap! It's getting all political up in this b——).

Needless to say, she didn't flinch. Instead she stood there with her

hands on her hips and waited for security to carry the disillusioned war veteran off the floor, all the while exercising her freedom of expression. In a statement given to ESPN.com she wrote that her actions have come about because "the government's priorities are not bettering the qualities of life for all of its people, but expanding its own power," and "I can no longer, in good conscience, salute the flag."

It almost brought a tear to my eye when I read that, but I'm a G so I kept it civilized and rolled on. Whether or not you agree with her decision or beliefs, you've got to respect her gangsta. In case you haven't already realized it, America is about to get into another Vietnam War.

We are living in 2003, but somehow it feels like 1969 all over again. The government, completely ignoring the cries of its people, is acting like its ready to jump

two feet into this war without even considering the objections of those who voted them into office.

For me though, Toni's stance was even more significant because it took place on an athletic platform; it was peaceful yet powerful, and it was the first of its kind since this whole conflict with Iraq started. Think about it, why did it take a 21-year old white girl at a Division III school to take a stand on a political issue facing everyone (even if you're like me and don't vote) in this country, when we have a plethora of viable candidates in the professional ranks of every sport. Where's the protest? Where's the dissension? Where's a Jim Brown or Muhammad Ali when you need one?

Michael Jeffrey Jordan, what are your opinions on the war in Iraq? If they didn't have all that oil, would we even be there? Doesn't South Korea have nukes?

Warren Sapp, you never shut up. Why don't you tell me how you feel about the Bush administration's forcing this war even though we don't have the backing of the United Nations?

Allen Iverson, my boy, you're the rebel/thug of the moment. More people bought your basketball jersey than voted for Bush and Al Gore combined. Won't you holler at me for a minute and tell me if you think Bush's actions are in the best interest of those people?

Speak up, homie. Don't be scurred.

I guess B.I.G. was right. Mo' money mo' problems, huh? Only in this situation, money is keeping certain people from forming their own opinion on and speaking out against government policy. America likes their athletes uninformed and uninterested in anything but the game and, by golly, that's how most of them are choosing to stay.

It's left to people like Toni, to take a stand, as small and insignificant as it may seem, for the rest of us who are too afraid to. Think about this the next time you're at a ball game and the words "all rise for the playing of the national anthem" come out of the loudspeaker:

"Jews don't salute the F——n Swastika, But n——s pledge allegiance to the flag that accosted ya!"

-Ras Kass, *Nature of the Threat*

Keep ya head up Toni.◊

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YEARBOOK EDITOR

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