

See how young America can influence who is in the White House.

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Nashville marches to the beat of MLK's dream.

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Find out if hip-hop fashion is here to stay.

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Catch up with the Tigers on the basketball court.

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In Hefner we trust

President tries to improve the quality of students at all costs

By Ashley Northington
 Campus News Editor

The Tennessee State University Foundation, a privately funded office that provides students with financial support, faces a \$2.6 million deficit stemming from President James A. Hefner awarding excessive scholarships.

Hefner, who holds a PhD in economics, disregarded the Tennessee Board of Regents' 1998 mandate to cease issuing fee waivers to out-of-state students. He is now using state funds to cover the balance resulting from the fee waivers.

Although the Foundation has \$11 million in its 200 accounts, that money cannot be used to cover the waivers due to donor restrictions.

Hefner promised 130 students foundation funds. However, last semester scholarship deficits totaled \$500,000. The spring 2004 foundation deficit was estimated at



IMAGE DESIGNED BY SHERPRI C. GILES

The TSU Foundation is \$2.6 million in debt due to President Hefner's attempt to "award quality students."

\$3.1 million.

On Dec. 12, 2003, a memorandum from Hefner stated all spring 2004 scholarships would be honored due to him transferring \$1.276 million from a reserved fund allocat-

ed to renovate the university, in order to cover the debt.

"I just like students," Hefner said.

See "Alumni" on page 2

myTSU does not improve registration woes

By Tionn Fambro
 Assistant Campus News Editor

Ashley Nettles rushes to a class that starts in three minutes. The junior respiratory therapy major from Birmingham, Ala., realizes she has no idea where the class is being held because she could not log on to myTSU to retrieve a copy of her schedule.

Unfortunately, many students can identify with Nettles' scenario because they have had this experience. However, Eric Reed, Tennessee State University's e-mail/portal administrator, said there is no one solution to this problem with myTSU.

"On (Jan. 12-13)...the system told me that my access was denied," said Elisha Reed, a junior from Nashville majoring in English. "(W)hen I finally did get in, it took me 40 minutes to register my classes. It's ridiculous."

The problem is that there are too many students trying to log on to the 2,600 computers on campus at a time, according to Reed.

Between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. approximately 2,289 students attempt to register on myTSU. When there are this many students attempting to log on at one time, access to myTSU is prolonged due

See "New" on page 3

Contraceptives credited in pregnancy decline

By Meridith M. Miller
 Community News Editor

Birth rates for Black teens set a record low by dropping over 40 percent in the past decade, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Final CDC data from the 2002 annual detail report on birth statistics show that teen birthrates as a whole have declined 30 percent over the past decade.

Black teens show the highest rate of decrease in teen pregnancy largely due to the 50 percent decrease in births for Blacks ages 15 to 17.

"I think the rise in advertising of contraceptives over the past decade has a lot to do with the decreased pregnancy rate," said Nekyah Young, a

See "Planned" on page 7

Campus News

Hefner cuts schedule for health

By Ashley Northington
Campus News Editor

After being diagnosed with atrial tachycardia and undergoing prostate surgery, President James A. Hefner has been taking a lighter work load, working half days and conducting meetings from his home.

During the Dec. 13 commencement services, Hefner fell while shaking hands with new graduates as they crossed the stage. He was rushed to St.

Thomas Hospital for treatment.

"I thought it was shocking news," said Chris Tate, a sophomore from Memphis, majoring in business information systems. "I really hoped he would feel better."

Throughout his six day stay at the hospital, doctors diagnosed Hefner with atrial tachycardia, also known as arrhythmia, meaning a fast heartbeat. His condition can be treated with medication and his medical team reported Dec. 19 that his heartbeat was normal and strong with no evidence of any fur-

ther problems.

Hefner said his urologist instructed him to take things slow for a while.

While hospitalized, doctors also noticed that Hefner suffered from benign prostatic hyperplasia, or BPH, causing an enlarged prostate gland. He underwent prostate surgery to correct the problem and he expects to make a full recovery.

"It's going to take me two or three weeks to get back to my normal self," Hefner said. "Then I will be back to full speed." •

Alumni support Hefner, TSU through 'storm'

Continued from page 1

"Educating students has been my life for 20 years...it is the president's business to award quality students."

In 1998, former TBR Chancellor Charles Smith ordered Hefner to stop awarding fee waivers to out-of-state students. The following year, Hefner persisted to award these scholarships and

a warning. Hefner submitted a plan of action to reduce the number of out-of-state students attending TSU at in-state rates.

"I thought they stopped doing that in 2000," said Ariel Ruffin, a senior from Atlanta majoring in physics. "They sent me a letter in the mail stating waivers were no longer offered."

Though it has been nearly six years after Hefner's first warning, he has con-

receive them. Hefner declined to answer any detailed questions as to why students are receiving fee waivers or what the status would be for student scholarships next year because he had yet to respond to Manning's inquiries.

Thursday, Jan. 22, alumni Dr. Carolyn Baldwin Tucker, Jesse Tucker and Gwendolyn Vincent met with Student Government Association leaders to discuss student concerns and to inform students of the action initiated by alumni.

"If (Hefner) is giving scholarships to students why are we so upset," Tucker asked. "TSU will be alright; we have weathered the storm together before."

Tucker, a 1969 graduate and Foundation Board of Trustee chair said that, "(H)efner has gone beyond the call of duty to provide student scholarships."

She also said that all scholarships promised to students for the spring semester will be covered, and when the Foundation hosts its annual dinner, "(students) will be really fine" after the donations are made.

"This meeting was really insightful," said Shawntaz Crawford, SGA president. "It is really good that the alumni are supporting the school." •



PHOTO BY ELBERT JAQUESS

Tucker, Dean Ronald Myles and other alumni, meet with student leaders, including Miss TSU Carla Stitt, to discuss Foundation scholarships.

Chancellor Charles Manning issued him continued to award fee waivers to selective students while not allowing others to

Tiger Fact: William S. Davis was TSU's first president in 1912.

Events

Calendar

Jan. 28

"TN Judicial Systems"
by Justice Frank Drowota III

Boswell Science
Complex, Rm.12
12 p.m.

Jan. 29

Bible Study
LRC Auditorium
7 p.m.

TSU Basketball vs.
Austin Peay
Gentry Center Gym
5:45 p.m.(women)
7:30 p.m. (men)

TSU NAACP meeting
Holland Hall, Rm. 102
7 p.m.

Jan. 30

Variety Step Show
Kean Hall Gym
7 p.m.

Jan. 31

TSU Basketball vs. Tenn.
Tech
Gentry Center Gym
5 p.m. (women)
7 p.m. (men)

Campus News

New software delivers poor performance

Continued from page 1

to the amount of information the Web server must process.

There are three machines that control the login page of myTSU. However, there is only one machine that controls the student information system (student services), human resources and finance resources (account summary) pages. Therefore, delays occur when a large number of students attempt to log on at the same time. During peak registration times, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., the average number of students attempting to log on to myTSU can range from 500 to 750 students at a time. This causes the log on waiting time to be approximately 30-90

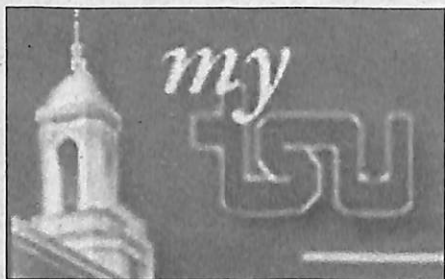


PHOTO COURTESY OF MYTSU.TNSTATE.EDU

myTSU

seconds.

"In the past, these were all the machines we needed," Reed said. "However, due to the increase in population, the machines are no longer suffi-

cient."

TSU could increase horsepower, get more machines to decrease access waiting time or limit the number of connections to alleviate the stress on the system.

The problem persists because there is a limited number of connections that can take place. For example, if the system only allows 50 students to log on at one time, the 51st person will be denied access into the system. This forces the student to wait for someone to log off before accessing that account.

Reed stresses that he does not want this problem to reoccur. The only way this issue will be resolved is to accommodate TSU's increasing population and make the necessary changes.

The previously used Pipeline Web portal was replaced with myTSU Web portal in fall 2003.

Pipeline neglected to offer the abundance of services myTSU offers. When logging on to myTSU, students will notice a student calendar, a daily planner, reliable e-mail and an improved system for efficient faculty to student communication.

"The improved faculty to student communication is 50 percent of the reason for the switch from Pipeline to myTSU," Reed said. "Although the changes appear to increase the ease of the day-to-day student stress, the Internet speed is just not quick enough to get the job done." •

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Forum

Voting, why don't we do it?

Student urges young Americans to exercise their rights



Matthew L. Evans
Political Columnist

So, people say they don't like President George W. Bush. They say he's just a warmonger who does not care for the average American citizen. Some say that Bush is the reason for what is wrong with this country, the economy, lost jobs, the environment, education and the war. Yup, it is all Bush's fault that the United States is in what many consider the worst shape in years. But, what if I said that the problems that this country faces are partially young Americans' fault? What if I said that it is not Bush who isn't doing his job, it's members of the American youth that are not doing theirs?

Voting is an integral part of what makes America such a great country. To live in a society where there is an equal opportunity of rights and liberties, citizens of other countries only dream of, is a privilege not to be taken for granted. These are the same rights and liberties for which men and women fought so hard. Some even died, only for an American citizen to have the opportunity to live freely in this democracy. Yet, as every election year comes and goes, the percentage of American youth participation in the voting process decreases.

Paul Begala, co-host of CNN's *Crossfire*, in response to a voting poll

conducted by the cable network, referred to America's youth as "hopelessly ill-informed," further stating, "If ignorance is bliss then young voters are the happiest folks in America."

Jeff Berkowitz, director of marketing at the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, in an interview with political analyst, Stuart Rothenberg, reported that when discussing the candidates' focus on voters from the ages of 18 to 24, "you are irrelevant... you don't matter."

I do believe it is sad, but given the recent history of young voter turnout in America, this description of young America is true. We have heard all the excuses young American voters give as reasons for not voting: their vote doesn't count, they feel ignored by politicians and they really don't know what is going on. The only group of Americans that can help young America get over these minor obstacles is young America themselves.

We need to stop complaining and start acting to resolve this problem or we will continue to be ignored. A 1998 study conducted by the New Millennium Voters Project, reported only 1-in-5 citizens from the ages of 18 to 24 bothered to vote.

There wasn't much of an increase by the turn of the century. Thirty-eight percent of young Americans said they didn't have time to vote and most young people feel their vote will not make much of a difference, according to the New Millennium 2000 survey. This is a very dangerous pattern young

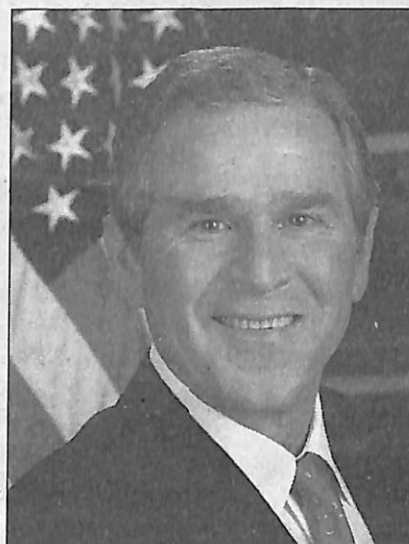


PHOTO COURTESY OF AF.MIL

President George W. Bush

Americans are creating and if nothing changes, this current group of Americans will continue to be irrelevant to the rest of the country.

So, if young Americans don't think that Bush is doing his job, then they might want to vote this election year. If not, then Bush will be the one finishing his job and another term during the year 2008. When that time comes, they shouldn't complain because young America would have blown yet another opportunity to make a difference, which wouldn't be much of a surprise to the rest of the country. •

What We Think

Put money where the problems lie

It seems that our leaders are failing to recognize what issues are demanding their attention and, most importantly, their monetary support.

Instead of attacking matters like health insurance, poor education systems, and unemployment with the wealth that America possesses, President George W. Bush wants to go back to the moon and send explorers to Mars.

This can even be seen at times at a more local level. One example is when President James A. Hefner initiates and sponsors superfluous projects around campus such as the Wellness Center, and adding lights to the walkway between the library and the Student Center instead of renovating dorms like Boyd Hall and providing additional parking spaces for the largest amount of students TSU has ever had.

These actions may seem like good intentions on the surface, but can one really believe that they are for the betterment of the people if fundamental needs are not met and practical solutions to everyday dilemmas are not found?

Much like Maslow's Hierarchy of needs, it's futile for a young child to try to learn algebra if he has not eaten in two days. If America and all leaders can't wake up and see where their people are starving, we will inevitably be a dysfunctional society. •

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.

Letters to the Editor

Sorority recognizes distinguished TSU members

The devastating divas of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Chi Chapter, would like to recognize the following for their renowned services at Tennessee State University. The results were obtained by conducting a random sample throughout the chapter and they are as follows:

Teacher- Diana Scales
(Business / Marketing Professor)

Dean -Dean Ron Myles
Staff/ Faculty -Col. Laird
(FPCC Campus Center Staff)
Aramark Staff at Tennessee State University

Most Improved Department on Campus -Career Center

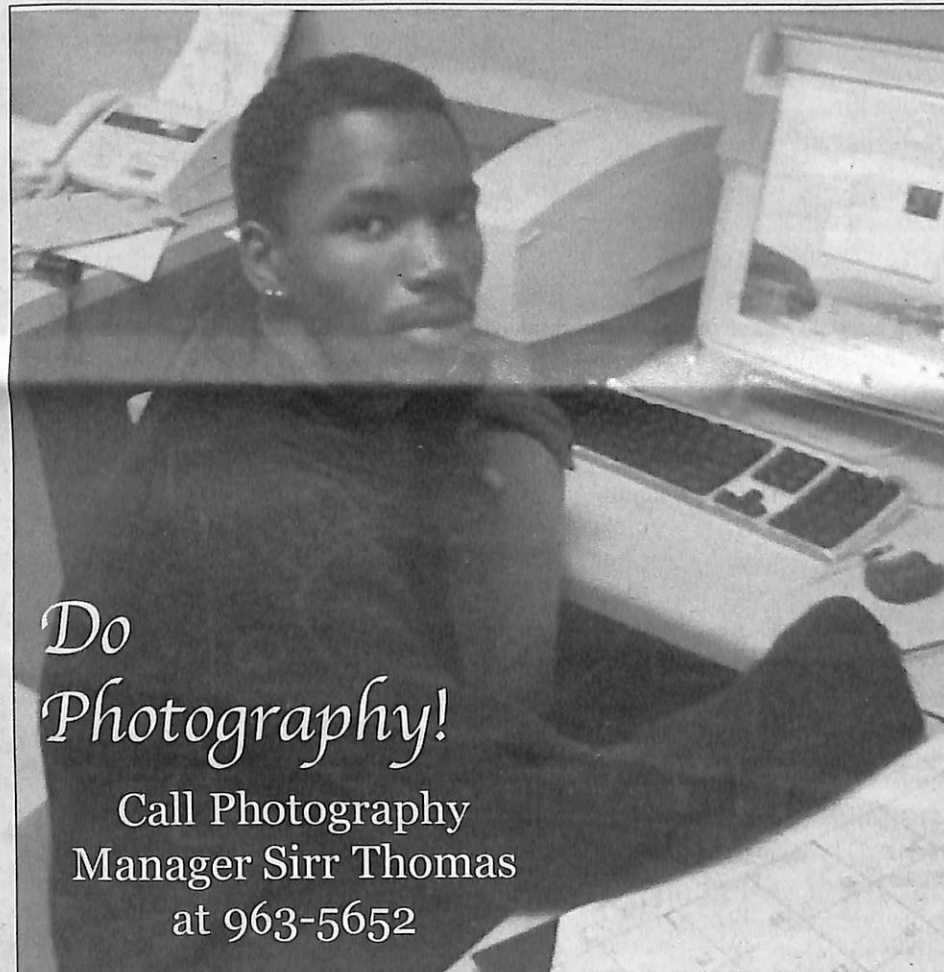
Male Appreciation -Charles Galbreath (Mr. TSU 2002-2003)

Thank you once again for your services at the university. We are very appreciative.

This letter is published in the format in which it was received. It has not been edited for content or style.

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The Meter is selling *Love Lines* to be published in the Fourth Annual Love & Sex Issue.

The lines are \$3 for 20 words, \$0.15 for each additional word and \$5 for pictures. To purchase *Love Lines* or pictures, visit room 304 in Kean Hall or stop by the table in the Floyd-Payne Campus Center until Feb. 2.

For more information, contact Advertising Manager Brandon G. Talford at 963-5652.

The Meter Mission Statement

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

Submission Requirements

The Meter is published weekly 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 every Monday. No exceptions!

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

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

Campus News

Crawford plans to build 'a foundation'

SGA President reveals his goals for this semester

By Candace James
Campus News Writer

Student Government Association President Shawntaz Crawford is the first officer to add \$10,000 to the General Assembly account. In addition, Crawford said he plans to host a Tennessee State University Think Tank to bridge the communication gap between students and administrators unlike the past Think Tanks that hosted students from an array of historically Black colleges and universities.

The purpose of the General Assembly is to support all campus organizations. The funds for the General Assembly account will be transferred from the student activity fee paid by students.

"We need to build a foundation first with ourselves and then begin working outside our community," he said. "We can eliminate the stereotypes of how the students feel about administrators, SGA and vice versa."

Crawford also has support from administrators in his efforts to participate in a voter registration drive for students.

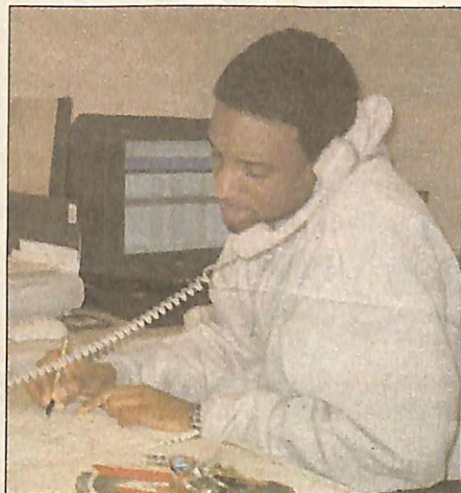


PHOTO BY SIRR THOMAS

2003-04 SGA President Shawntaz Crawford makes preparations in his office Jan. 22, for the march to the polls Feb. 10.

Crawford said he plans to have a voter registration booth in every dormitory and a march to the polls for the primary elections Feb 10.

"We've done something like Crawford's idea in the past and I would be more than happy to support this event

so that students can vote," Dean of Residence Life Peggy Earnest said.

By obtaining support from administrators, Crawford expects to sway them and students to mandate all organizations to perform a weekly community service project.

"This is a great challenge, but it is our responsibility as collegians to reach back and help strengthen our community," he said.

Kristal Sandifer, a senior from Bakersfield, Calif., majoring in sociology said, "I think that is a good idea, but for small organizations that may be too much."

By working with the administrators in Computer Information Technology department, Crawford plans to encourage more use of myTSU for intercampus communication. He also wants to buy a Web site called "T-Bay" that will allow students to exchange and buy books amongst TSU students.

"I think that the students need another option, because the bookstore is too expensive," said Erick Williams a junior from Birmingham, Ala., majoring in computer science.

Crawford said he is not trying to put the bookstore out of business, but increase the amount of money students receive for selling books back.

In addition, he promises to reestablish the Collegiate 100 Black men.

"Taz is visible to the students, and has a genuine concern for the student body," said Kerry Mackey Jr., a senior from Flint, Mich., majoring in health care administration.

With his platform "Take it to da House," Crawford designed a brochure that was distributed all over campus informing students how to take their concerns to the SGA.

"While I was in SGA for the past four years, no one had ever defined what SGA is, or explained to students in layman terms SGA responsibilities," he said.

He also said that if students understand the structure of SGA then more students will get involved.

"My actions are not to be remembered, but for the next person to follow them and to enhance the foundation that has been established," Crawford said.

Tennessee Lottery Scholarships

The criteria are:

- You must be a resident of Tennessee
- You must graduate from a Tennessee high school with a minimal * unweighted 3.0 GPA and a college core *unweighted 3.0 GPA and complete all college core and university track courses (20 units required) or have a 19 ACT/890 SAT score
- You must attempt 24 credit hours in the first year of college with at least a 2.75 GPA
- You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid application (FAFSA) by the priority deadline of May 1st. Early applications are recommended to meet the state required deadline.

For online applications, please visit the FAFSA Web site at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

*Unweighted GPA: GPA on a 4.0 scale calculated without additional prints awarded for advanced placement, honors or other similar courses.

*The Meter sends
condolences to the family
and friends of
Dr. Henry Onyejiaka,
communications professor,
and TSU junior Gregory
Kimbrough.*

Community News

Nashville continues the march and the dream

By Courtney Hawkins
Community News Writer

Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream came to reality once again Monday, Jan. 19, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. With temperatures reaching as low as 17 degrees, an estimated 12,000 people from different ages, schools and ethnic groups marched from 8th Avenue South to Tennessee State University's Gentry Center to celebrate King's birthday.

"The weather was irritating," said Kenya Moore, a senior from Memphis majoring in business management. "It was worth it because we all were marching in King's spirit and for what he stood for."

People who were waiting to march at Jefferson Street Baptist Church got entertainment too. Local radio station "Blazin" 106.7 provided local gospel acts to keep people's spirits up as they waited nearly two hours to march. Inside

the church, coffee and juice were distributed to those who could not bear to stay in the extremely cold weather.

Once all the marchers got to the Gentry Center, the convocation began. The convocation had an exciting start when the Village Drum Ensemble came and performed African dance and music. After their performance, different Nashville area political figures and speakers, including Mayor Bill Purcell, and the chief of police, spoke about King and welcomed everyone to the convocation.

Many people came to the convocation not only in remembrance of King, but to hear these different speakers.

"I come every year and I am enthused to hear the speakers," said Shalania Ivey, a sophomore at American Baptist College in Nashville. "Especially since one of my fellow classmates is speaking."

The keynote speaker was Bishop

Joseph Warren Walker III of the Mount Zion Baptist Church. Once he started to speak to the audience, everyone seemed to forget they were in a gym and started to have church by enjoying the spirit of the moment. Walker spoke to ignite the spirit of King and the dream King had. Walker even stated that he had a dream for the "hip-hop" generation saying that this generation needs to, "stop fighting and tearing down each other and loosen what is holding you back to find the purpose that God has for your life."

After Walker spoke, the whole crowd stood up, some clapping and some praising God.

Whether hearts were changed is not known. What is known is that the Nashville community came out to show homage to a leader who made unprecedented contributions to the Black community and to people as a whole.

Elizabeth Barger, a 67-year-old resident of Summer, Tenn., stated that she

was pleased to see "people of peace come together to represent a man of peace."•



PHOTO BY SIRR THOMAS

Students and community members march down Jefferson Street Monday, Jan. 19, to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Planned Parenthood brings help to pregnancy problem

Continued from page 1

Tennessee State University senior and former employee of Planned Parenthood, an organization begun in 1916 with the goal of serving and supporting women and their right to choose when or whether to have a child.

"Agencies like Planned Parenthood and other agencies have started more programs where children learn about sex and contraception at a much earlier age. These programs have also had a lot to do with the declining birth rates for younger women," she said.

CDC statistics show the highest birth rate among women falls in the 25 to 29 age range at 114 births per 1,000 women. In comparison, the teen birthrate in the U.S. is 43 births per 1,000 teens.

Teenagers aren't the only age group showing a decline in pregnancy and birth. According to the National Center of Health Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, births among 20 to 24-year-old women have declined over the last decade as well. In 1991, births for U.S. women in this age range totaled 1,089,692. In 2001, the births totaled

1,021,627, a total difference of 68,065.

Since many college-aged women fall into the 20 to 24-year-old age range, statistics show that birth rates for college women are down as well.

"Contraception is more available now than it has ever been," Young said. "Safe sex has been on the scene for a while now, and the idea of safe sex has gained mass appeal."

While some attribute the declining birthrate for young women across the U.S. to increased use of contraceptives, others wonder why increased abstinence among teens and young adults isn't playing a bigger role.

"Women today have a technology at their disposal to protect and control their reproductive health that no generation has had before them, emergency contraception," Vice President of Planned Parenthood Katherine Burnett says on Planned Parenthood's Web site.

By emergency contraception, Burnett is referring to the EC pills and the intrauterine device.

Both of these Food and Drug Administration approved devices can be used to intervene and prevent pregnancy if taken within approximately 120 hours after unprotected sex. EC pills are taken

orally and contain hormones that reduce the risk of pregnancy. The IUD is a copper-releasing insert that has the same effect as the EC pills.

With 80 percent of all teen pregnancies being unintended, and half of all 6.3 million pregnancies in America being accidental, the use of emergency contraception has become more prevalent.

"I support emergency contraception," Young said, "But I do not support the possibility that it may become an over-the-counter drug. Younger women may misuse the drug, and with an over-the-counter system there will be no way for the usage to be monitored. (Incorrect usage) poses too many health risks."

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit organization that engages in reproductive health research, policy analysis and public education, Tennessee ranks 16th in the nation for teen pregnancies, averaging 18,160 teen pregnancies every year; 66 percent resulting in live birth, 18 percent resulting in abortion, and the remaining 16 percent resulting in miscarriages.

Tennessee's public and private family planning clinics serve 100,960 women, including 31,500 teens and young adults. Publicly funded family

planning clinics help women avoid 23,500 unintended pregnancies each year, many of which may be a result of condom breakage, missed birth control pills or non-consensual sex. But some argue that medical technology such as EC takes away from the sexual responsibility that women and men should take.

"People know the consequences of their actions," said Tamara Waldon, a TSU junior and member of the Beta chapter of the Christian sorority Alpha Epsilon Omega. "(EC) is early abortion if you ask me."

While family planning facilities support a woman's right to control pregnancy, those against the ideas of planning facilities, mainly religious groups, support the rights of women and men to make different choices, such as the choice of abstinence, before ending up in emergency situations.

"There are too many other ways to prevent pregnancy to have to deal with emergency contraception," Waldon said. "Yes it is (a woman's) body, but life may have already taken place and that life shouldn't be at the disposal of anyone."•

Arts & Entertainment

Sales suggest hip-hop clothing lines may stick around

By Ashley Kelly
Black College Wire

Many believe that hip-hop artists' clothing lines are a fad, but the revenue they produce annually suggests otherwise.

The NPD Group, a New York-based market information company, reports sales of hip-hop clothing for 2002 at \$2 billion. This estimate includes not only apparel, but footwear and accessories.

Jennifer Lopez's line, J.Lo, racked up \$130 million in sales last year, according to news reports. Rocawear, founded by Jay-Z and entrepreneur and music producer Damon Dash, and Baby Phat, founded by Russell Simmons, each earned \$300 million. P.Diddy's Sean John line brought in \$450 million last year.

Simmons' Phat Farms was sold to the Kellwood Co. for an estimated \$140 million in cash and a share of future revenue, as announced Jan. 8.

"It is a growing industry because so many different rappers and celebrities are coming out with lines, and street wear is very popular," said an NPD Group representative.

Up Against The Wall, a 16-unit urban-wear chain based in Washington, D.C., carries many of the popular hip-hop artists' clothing lines, including Rocawear, Sean John, J. Lo, Phat Farm and Baby Phat.

Izzy Ezrailson, president of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF
BLACKCOLLEGEWIRE.ORG

The Rocawear clothing line was created by Jay-Z and Damon Dash.

chain, said that Rocawear brings in the store's highest sales, with more than \$2 million annually. Sean John comes in second, with about \$1 million in annual sales.

Yet Ezrailson said he believes many of the hip-hop lines will not be around long. "There are about 40 or 50 (clothing lines) in total and they will not all last. I don't think people will always follow what some entertainer tells them to wear as a general rule," explained Ezrailson. He said he does see longevity in Rocawear and Sean John, however.

Some do not share Ezrailson's sentiment.

Aba Bonney-Kwawu, founder of the Aba Agency, a D.C. company whose ser-

vices include image development and fashion consulting, said hip-hop artists' clothing lines are not a fad. "It's going to be a mainstay. It's like their music and fashion go hand in hand, but it's just going to evolve depending on the way the rap and the music evolve."

Some Howard University students say they will eventually grow out of this style of dress.

"Ten years from now, we will not be wearing them," said Brandon Brice, a junior international business major. "Lines such as Sean John and Rocawear are too trendy and do not have the universal appeal of such mainstream clothing lines as Ralph Lauren," he said.

Many enjoy the fashion of hip-hop artists, but believe that they should not be worn exclusively.

"There's nothing wrong with wearing clothing lines that are based on hip-hop artists, but you should not be limited to them just because he or she is your favorite artist," said Kwame Mbalia, a junior biology major. "I think you should not follow the trend. If you see something you like . . . that might be Kenneth Cole or Tommy Hilfiger . . . then you should wear it."

More hip-hop clothing lines are appearing every day. Eve released her Fetish line this fall, clothing described as sophisticated and urban.

Beyonce Knowles, who has gained much acclaim in the hip-hop world with her solo album, *Dangerously in Love*, is

starting a line with her mother, who designs most of her wardrobe.

Jamie Ross, creative director of the youth division at Donegar Group, a New York-based fashion consulting firm, said that hip-hop is making an impact on mainstream clothing lines.

"Many mainstream clothing lines look to street fashion for ideas, such as Dolce & Gabbana. Gap has joined Madonna and Missy Elliot," explained Ross. "The subculture has become the main culture."

Still, some do not believe that a true sense of fashion is behind hip-hop artists' clothing lines.

"They are based solely on the star power of who is behind it, there is no real fashion involved," said Jeremiah McFarlan, a junior information systems major at Howard University.

Beverly Ramsey, who has been designing formal wear since 1998, said that Sean John is closer to couture than others because of its collection of men's suits.

Hip-hop is also affecting the styles of luxury designers. "A lot of 'ghetto' people had never heard of Moschino . . . until Lil' Kim or Biggie Smalls," explained Bonney-Kwawu. "Chanel and these luxury designers are now having to make clothing to suit this new, Black customer who maybe wasn't raised on it, but they're O.D.-ing on it right now."

Ashley Kelly, a student at Howard University, writes for *The Hilltop*.

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Sports

Future cop runs a mile a minute

By Tamika L. Jefferson
Sports Editor

A 200-meter dash track star has a solid foundation in his aspiration to become a police officer- he runs fast. He is Flying Tiger Nickolas Horton, who also runs the 400-meter dash and 4 x 400 relays and majors in criminal justice at Tennessee State University.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK HORTON

Horton runs the 400-meter dash at Vanderbilt last season.

Horton said. "I will work three years as a patrolman and then test out to be a detective. All patrolmen eventually want to make detective."

Horton is on an athletic scholarship and has been running track since his sophomore year at Whitefish Bay Dominican High School in Milwaukee, the year after he was cut from the basketball team for reasons unknown and decided to join the track team.

"He's been a key contributor on and off the track," TSU's assistant track coach Ryan Meyers said. "He has an excellent work ethic."

At TSU's Ed Temple Classic Jan. 11, Horton placed second in the 400-meter dash out of 41 runners, with a time of 49.02 seconds. He led the Tigers in the

2003 Ohio Valley Conference Track and Field Championships as he captured a first-place finish in the 200 and 400-meter events with a time of 21.63 and 46.85 seconds, respectively. Horton also was a part of the 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams.

Along with being a Flying Tiger, Horton is a member of the Criminal Justice Organization and Wisconsin Alliance, in which he won Mr. Wisconsin.

"He is a real cool and calm person to kick it with," said Riley Walker, a senior from Nashville and a Flying Tiger. "You can depend on (and)... trust him."

No one in his family ran track, but his grandfather ran in marathons "for the hell of it," Horton said. The person Horton says he admires most is his father, Gregory Horton, because he instilled hard work in him. He said his father didn't take any handouts and worked for everything he owns.

"My father always says 'why steal when you can get a job,'" Horton said. "He didn't sit around and let things come to him. He taught me not to be lazy. I want TSU to remember me for being someone who knew how to get what he wanted and didn't need anyone to get it for him."

A typical day for Horton begins with class from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., practice from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., weightlifting, eating dinner and then study hall from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"I really don't have a life outside of track," he said. "We don't have our time, we have the sport's time. You have to make your class schedule around the sport. You can't do what you want when you want to. You are on someone else's time. When I am not in class or practice, I am usually hanging out with team members."

His advice for incoming freshmen wanting to pursue being a student athlete is to put your all into the sport.

"Don't get involved unless you are going to dedicate 100 percent," Horton said. "It's really not that hard. You just have to prioritize and not mess up in the sport, then not mess up in your classes because we have better GPAs than regular students."*

TSU track season spawns victory

Tigerbelles prevail in Ed Temple Classic

The host Tennessee State Tigerbelles claimed first place in the distance medley relay and Juanita Thomas won the 3,000-meter run with a time of 11 minutes and 35.04 seconds in the Fourth Annual Edward S. Temple Track Classic during the Jan. 10-11 weekend.

Tigerbelle Porsche Buckner and teammate Rebekah Robinson respectively placed first and second in the 400-meter dash with times of 58.33 seconds and 59.04.

Flying Tiger Nick Horton placed second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 49.02 behind Florida A&M's Eric Ramsay's time of 48.68. TSU's Jermie Harris placed fourth with a time of 49.96 in the same race.

A total of 635 competitors representing 24 men's and women's track programs competed including local schools Belmont, Fisk, Austin Peay and David Lipscomb.

TSU shines against local competition

Tennessee State University women and men's indoor track and

field teams won 10 top-three finishes at the Middle Tennessee State Christmas Invitational Sunday, Dec. 7 in Murfreesboro.

The Tigerbelles and the Flying Tigers competed against MTSU, Vanderbilt and Austin Peay runners.

Junior Shaniqua Hector led the Tigerbelles in the field events, placing first in the pole vault with a height of 3.04m (10-00.00). Also, the Ocala, Fla. native finished second in the long jump with a distance of 5.44m (17-10.25).

Flying Tiger Eric Stanberry, a senior from Detroit, placed second in the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:00.17, just 14-thousandths of a second behind the event winner, Godfrey Herring, who ran unattached, which is when a runner does not represent a school or university. Stanberry recorded one of the highest finishes among the runners for TSU.

Compiled by Tamika L. Jefferson*



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Shaniqua Hector



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Nick Horton



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Sports

OVC pays Price attention

Tennessee State freshman guard Bruce Price was named Ohio Valley Conference Rookie of the Week for the third time this season.

This latest honor stemmed from his play in the Tigers' OVC wins over Jacksonville State and Samford during the week of Jan. 4-11.

Price recorded a career-high 38 points against JSU on 57 percent field goal shooting (5 of 8 three-pointers) and 17 of 24 from the free throw line.

Against Samford, he scored 13 points, made 11 of 12 free throws. Price also had 10 rebounds, nine assists, eight steals and a blocked shot in the two games.

Two of the steals came down the stretch of the

Samford game as TSU rallied from a 12-point second half deficit.

Price averages 17.1 points, 3.7 assists and 2.5 steals per game.

Tiger Briefs

TSU record breakers to be honored in New York

Charles Anthony and C.J. Johnson were named to the 2003 SBN Black

College All-American Football Team and the team is set to be honored Thursday, Feb. 12, at the New York Sheraton Hotel and Towers.

Anthony, a junior running back from Orlando, Fla.,



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

CJ Johnson

became TSU's career leading rusher this season after passing Darron Davis' 1,101 rushing yards set in 1994. Anthony rushed for 100 plus yards in 11 of 12 games this season, totaling 1,708 yards, and recorded 13 touchdowns. He also made 29 pass receptions for 362 yards and three touchdowns.

Johnson, a senior wide receiver from Nashville, became TSU's all-time leader in career receiving yardage with 3,903 yards. He surpassed Mike Jones' (1979-82) receiving yards former record of 3,571. He had 57 catches for a career-high 1,106 yards and had 11 touchdown catches.

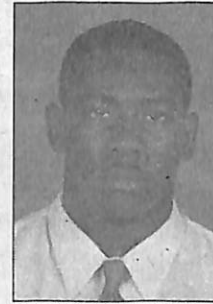


PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Charles Anthony

TSU to host annual track event

Tennessee State is set to host the Third Annual TSU Invite Sunday, Feb. 1, on the Gentry Center's new 200-meter invitational 2000 polyurethane track.

Last year one of the highlights for the event was the Tigerbelles' effort in the 4x400 relay. The team ran the time of 3 minutes 47.03 seconds, which is less than six seconds shy of the NCAA provisional qualifying time. TSU's Jennifer Lawson was the top collegiate finisher in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.70 seconds.

More than 300 athletes competed in the event held in the Gentry Center with athletes from Belmont, Austin Peay, Alabama A&M, Alabama State, Fisk, Lipscomb, Jacksonville State, Savannah State, Knoxville College as well as several unattached athletes competing.

The deadline for entries is Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Compiled by Tamika L. Jefferson



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Bruce Price

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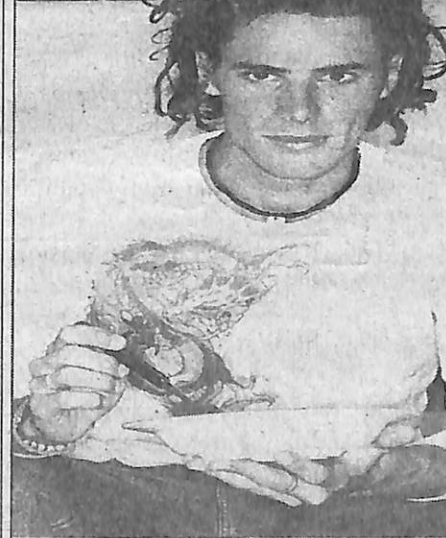
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Sports

Men's basketball winter break recap

Jan. 17 at Eastern Illinois, the Tennessee State Tigers won 60-59 in its fourth Ohio Valley Conference game. The victory was TSU's first OVC road victory since a win at Southeast Missouri in the 2001-02 season. Freshman guard Bruce Price led the Tigers with 19 points, 15 coming in the second half. Junior forwards Roshawn Bowens and Jeremy Jackson each scored 12.

Jan. 15 at Southeast Missouri, TSU lost 75-81. Bowens notched a career-high 33 points. The junior from Nashville connected on 11-of-19 field goals. Senior guard Brandon Lockridge came off the bench to record 16 points.

Jan. 10 in the Gentry Center, TSU won 60-48 against the OVC's other addition, Samford University. Lockridge came off the bench to hit a pair of three-pointers and sophomore guard Adrian Pritchett made one to aid the Tigers' late surge to win its second straight OVC

game.

Jan. 8 in the Gentry Center, OVC newcomer Jacksonville State opened conference play with a 74-88 loss to TSU. The Tigers led 41-25 at halftime and built its largest lead at 20 points (88-68) with 1:55 remaining in the game. The Tigers shot 62 percent in the first half and 55 percent for the game. Price recorded a career-high 38 points.

Dec. 30 in the Gentry Center, Portland State defeated TSU 74-71. Head coach Cy Alexander did not attend the game due to an illness. Assistant coach Jamal Brown served as acting head coach. Price led TSU with 23 points and senior guard Garrett Richardson finished with 19. Jackson and Bowens each scored 20. Bowens scored all of his points during the second half.

Dec. 22 at the University of Chattanooga, TSU lost 70-74. Richardson led TSU with 21 points, 19

coming in the first half. Bowens finished with 18 points.

Dec. 19 at Colorado, TSU fell 44-71. The Tigers rallied from a 20-point deficit to close the gap to 10 points with less than nine minutes remaining, but Colorado outscored the Tigers 21-4. Price, came off the bench and led TSU with 29 points, the only Tiger in double figures.

Dec. 17 at Wyoming, the Tigers lost 56-109. The Cowboys shot 78 percent (21-27) and missed only one of eight 3-point attempts in the first half. Lockridge came off the bench to score 20 points for the Tigers, including six 3-pointers. Price did not play due to a back injury.

Dec. 12 at Alabama A&M, TSU had a one-point lead with 1.3 seconds remaining in its 77-78 loss. Price was called for an offensive foul away from the ball as the Tigers prepared to inbound the ball. Jackson helped spark TSU's

rally with four 3-pointers in the second half and finished with 15 points.

Dec. 10 at Vanderbilt, the Tigers fell to the Commodores 64-85. TSU trailed Vanderbilt by as many as 32 points before making a late run to pull within 19 points in the final minute of play. Bowens led the Tigers with 22 points and Richardson scored 18 points and also had a game-high five steals. The Tigers are 0-4 against Vandy.

Dec. 6 at Georgia Tech, the Tigers lost 43-94. Richardson led the Tigers with 11 points and four steals. The Tigers were out rebounded 52-23.

As of Jan. 23, TSU was 4-12 and 3-2 in the OVC.

Compiled by Tamika L. Jefferson

Lady Tigers claim first win in winter play

Jan. 19 in the Gentry Center, The Tennessee State University Lady Tigers won their first game of the season against Fisk University, 88-38. Senior guard Kisha Stewart led TSU with a career-high 21 points. She shot 44 percent from the floor and 70 percent from the free throw line.

Jan. 17 at Eastern Illinois, TSU fell 49-79 in their fourth Ohio Valley Conference game. EIU went on a 15-4 run to open the contest and would only let the Lady Tigers move to within 11 points before pulling away for good before the break. Junior forward/center Kendra Bailey dropped 14 points and grabbed 11 rebounds en route to her first double-double of the season. Sophomore forward/center Denina Lockridge scored 11 points.

Jan. 15 at Southeast Missouri, SEMO demolished the Lady Tigers 102-45. After halftime, TSU managed to pull within 35 points, 71-36, at the 12:24 mark before SEMO hit a series of three-pointers. Stewart scored a team-high 10 points.

Jan. 10 in the Gentry Center, TSU

lost 38-63. The Lady Tigers held Samford to a mere five points by the 12-minute mark in the first half. TSU led by as many as eight before a Samford rally. Stewart led Tennessee State with 11 points.

Jan. 8 in the Gentry Center, Jacksonville State defeated TSU 89-67 in the conference opener. Costly fouls sent JSU to the free throw line nine times in the second half. Senior forward Odessa Kelly finished with a double-double, 27 points and 12 rebounds, and shot 90 percent from the free throw line. Senior guard Kisha Stewart contributed 11 points.

Jan. 5 at Birmingham Southern, TSU lost 54-62. Stewart led all scorers with a game and season-high 21 points, 12 from shots behind the arc. Kelly pulled down a game-high nine rebounds and had four blocks.

Dec. 20 at Jackson State, the Lady Tigers fell 35-70. The closest TSU came was 19 points before JSU widened the scoring gap to win. In TSU's second consecutive game, no Lady Tiger scored in double figures. Stewart scored eight, the team's highest scorer.



PHOTO BY SIRR THOMAS

Stewart scored 11 points against Jacksonville State Jan. 8.

Dec. 18 in the Gentry Center, TSU lost 43-69 to Alabama A&M. The Lady Tigers' cold shooting from the floor ended the first half with AAM leading, 35-10. The Lady Tigers shot 12.5 percent, 4 of 32, before halftime compared to 41.2 percent by AAM. Bailey led the Lady Tigers with eight points.

Dec. 15 in the Gentry Center, Middle Tennessee State defeated TSU 63-82. Despite four players scoring in double figures, the Lady Tigers' defense could

not stop the hot hand of MTSU's Patrice Holmes, who led all scorers with 31 points. Stewart led the Lady Tigers with 16 points, followed by junior guard LaKisha Clay with 14, Kelly scored 13 and Lockridge recorded 10.

Dec. 6 at the University of New Mexico, TSU lost 40-83 to Southern Utah in the Lobo Southwest Airlines Shootout consolation game. Lockridge led TSU with 10 points and Bailey grabbed 10 rebounds.

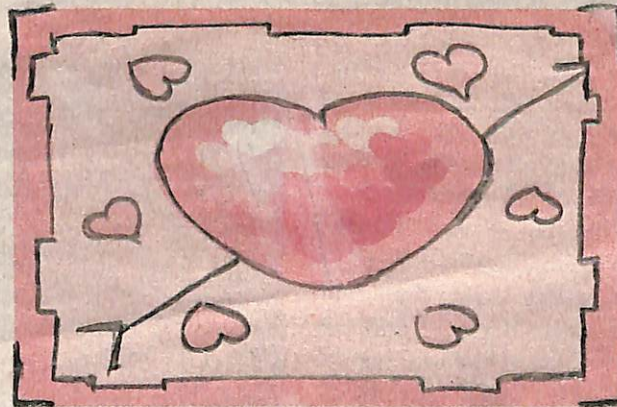
Dec. 5 at the University of New Mexico, the Lady Tigers drowned in an 18-89 loss in the Lobo Southwest Airlines Shootout. TSU shot 15.2 percent from the field compared to 46.7 percent shooting by UNM. UNM also out shot the Lady Tigers from behind the arc, hitting 15 of 29 to TSU's 1 of 8. Bailey led the Lady Tigers with five points, grabbed a team-high seven rebounds and one steal. She also was 3 of 5 from the free throw line.

As of Jan. 23, the Lady Tigers were 1-14, 0-5 in the OVC.

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