

Graduation requirements decrease in fall 2004

By Candace James
 Campus News Writer

Beginning in fall 2004, graduation requirements for all incoming freshmen, under the Tennessee Board of Regents system, will be reduced from 130 credit hours to 120 credit hours, according to associate

vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Ken Looney.

TSU's general education requirements are expected to be reduced from 41 hours to 32, eliminating physical education and computer science.

"There was divergence throughout different universities with community colleges under TBR accepting certain credits,"

Lonney said. "Also certain state legislators (were concerned) about students not graduating within four years."

Along with the graduation credit hour change, the academic affairs sub-council committee under the TBR will implement four other changes. All course numbers will

See "Changes" on page 2



Former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders drops in on TSU.

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Enter the oasis of north Nashville's Essense Day Spa.

Page 13



Musiq's soul shines bright on his third album *Soulstar*.

Page 17

A family affair

TSU's first OVC champs celebrate their camaraderie

By Tamika L. Jefferson
 Sports Editor

Former Tennessee State Tiger Carlos Rogers, a 1994 first-round NBA Draft pick, credited his success to the "one unit" that existed in the 1990s between the TSU men and women's basketball teams, at the 10th Anniversary Ohio Valley Conference Basketball Championship Celebration Jan. 31.

The conference, held at the Millennium Maxwell House in

Nashville, honored the first TSU men and women's basketball teams who won OVC titles.

Rogers spoke on behalf of the honored Tigers and reminisced about the team sharing a bus to games with the Lady Tigers. He recalled how he and Lady Tiger center Connie Swift would debate about who would score the most points and grab the most rebounds. He said both teams cheered for each other and the two head coaches, Frankie Allen and Teresa Phillips,

See "Celebration" on page 18

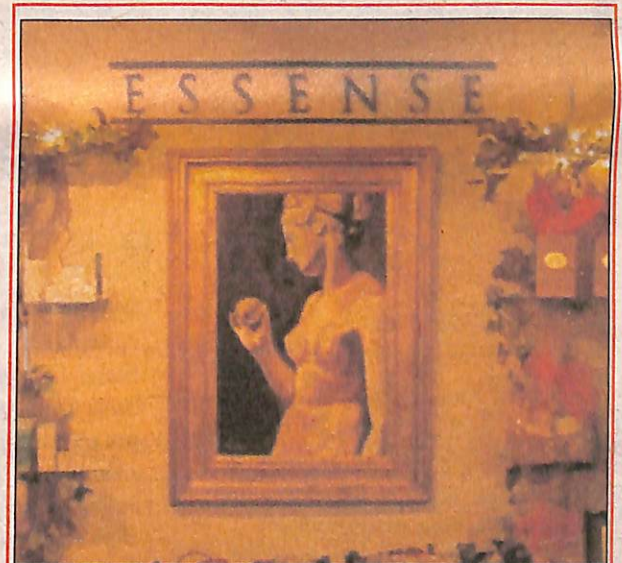


PHOTO BY MERIDITH M. MILLER

Essense Day Spa offers top-of-the-line gifts and cosmetic products for Valentine's Day. Find out more in the *Love and Sex* special section beginning on page 7.

Students speak out against sex crime sentence

By Yakima Marks and Meridith M. Miller
 Community News Writer and
 Community News Editor

Students at Tennessee State University are disturbed about the sentencing of Marcus Dixon, an 18-year-old student from

Rome, Ga., who is serving a 10 year sentence for the charge of aggravated child molestation with his white girlfriend.

Dixon was a high school senior with a 3.96 grade point average, a 1200 on the SAT and received a football scholarship to Vanderbilt University.

"I believe the jury was trying to make an example out of him," said Clifford Floyd,

a friend of the family from Rome, Ga. "The community thinks it is messed up to see someone with so much potential... top 100 prospect, all-star athlete who has never been in any trouble get such a sentence."

Under Georgia law if anyone, regardless of age, has sex with a minor (under age 16) that results in "any injury," he is guilty of

See "Dixon" on page 6



Check out how this Tigerbelle is shaving seconds off the clock.

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Campus News

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Changes may 'save money,' alleviate stress for students

Continued from page 1

change to four digits. For an example, BIO 410 Special Topics will change to BIO 4100 Special Topics. Lonney said with these course number changes, credits will more easily transfer.

All TBR schools will have the same academic calendar that will cause all institutions to begin all classes, spring and winter vacations, and graduations on the same days. All class times will also increase. Students who presently have one-hour and 15-minute classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays will see class time increase 10 minutes in the upcoming fall semester. All 50-minute classes will increase by five minutes. All published course catalog books will be dismissed and are scheduled to be administered online until next spring 2005, according to Lonney. The online catalog will be posted on myTSU in mid-April.

The TBR was created in 1972 by the General Assembly as the governing body of 19 universities and colleges including University of Memphis,

Middle Tennessee State University, Austin Peay State University, Tennessee State University and East Tennessee State University. The members of TBR are responsible for electing presidents of institutions and approving tenure, regulating curriculum requirements for diplomas and degrees, operating capital budgets of each institution and controlling policies regarding campus life.

"Students can take 15 hours each semester without summer school and graduate in four years and save money as well," said TSU Dean of Admissions and Records, John Cade.

Some classes in majors and concentrations that require rigorous work loads, like engineering, will not be eliminated from the curriculum. However, the credit hours will change to meet the new major core class requirements. The nine hours deducted from the basic curriculum is designed to alleviate student stress. Students majoring in engineering are required to take engineering-in-training lab and senior seminar, although they receive zero credit hours, according to department head of electri-

cal and computer engineering, Dr. Satinderpaul Devgan.

"Faculty are reducing the importance of classes like senior seminar that you are required to take in order to graduate and receive your Professional Engineering License," said Alexis Johnson, a senior from Atlanta, Ga., majoring in civil engineering. "Students are not going to take it seriously."

When graduation approaches, some students may feel the graduation requirement reduction will prevent them from competing with other students for employment opportunities.

"Employment opportunities do not play a role in this matter; it is the knowledge that you have to have on a senior level and what you do with that knowledge to get into the field of your choice," Dr. Billy Boyd of Student Employment on campus in the Career Center said.

Events Calendar

Feb. 9

In Delta Color Variety Show
 Hosted by Ricky Smiley
 T.E. Poag Auditorium
 7:13 p.m.

Business Class: Career Fair Prep.
 Seminar
 FPCC Rm. 210
 3 p.m.

Feb. 10

Carolina Club's Valentine Candy-Grams
 FPCC Lobby
 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Feb 11.

Crimson and Cream Café Poetry Set
 (Open Mic)
 Women's Building
 6:13 p.m.

Feb. 12

Health Fair
 Kean Gym
 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Speaker: Michael McBride
 LRC Auditorium
 10:50 a.m.

Say What! Karaoke
 Main Cafeteria
 Free Buffalo Wings
 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

Bible Study
 LRC Auditorium
 7 p.m.

"Pillow Talk: I said NO!"
 FPCC Rm. 210
 6 p.m.

Feb. 14

Happy Valentine's Day!
 Varsity Basketball vs. Southeast
 Missouri
 Gentry Center
 Women 5:45 p.m.; men 7:30 p.m.

Campus News

Former Surgeon General gives students secrets to succeed

By Daniel Veiga and Chasitie Goodman
Campus News Writers

Former Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders advised the Tennessee State student body, Feb. 3, to stay focused on education to be successful.

She gave students five steps to success: "First, set a goal; secondly, don't be afraid of failure; third, don't procrastinate; fourth, don't be afraid to change; and lastly, persevere."

Camille Waters, a junior from Kansas City, Mo., majoring in nursing said, "She seems interesting. She was good for standing up for education."

Elders also told students, "Never throw away your tomorrow worrying about yesterday."

Elders is widely known for being dismissed from her post as the first Black Surgeon General after only 15 months of service because of her outspoken views on sex education.

"I never thought about being an African-American Surgeon General, only with being the best Surgeon General," Elders said. "I did not mind overcoming barriers....I went to Washington to do a job."

In 1987 Elders was appointed Director of the Arkansas Department of Health by then Governor Bill Clinton. In 1992 she was elected President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers. Previously, Elders worked as a professor at the University of Arkansas Medical Center, where she became an expert on childhood sexual development.

One year later, Elders became United States Surgeon General appointed by former President Clinton. As Surgeon General, she was a strong advocate for comprehensive health education in schools. Because she was so outspoken in her views, she was forced to resign. After her resignation, she returned to the University of Arkansas Medical Center as a professor of pediatrics where she continues to teach as well as lecture across the country.

"I didn't feel good about having to

resign; I felt good about what I was about," she said. "Bill Clinton knew that I wasn't going to change."

The Student Development Symposium Presentation Series is a series of presentations by high-profile career people who speak to students about their accomplishments and the obstacles they overcame to reach them.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM

Dr. Joycelyn Elders

Neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson, Susan Taylor, founder of *Essence* magazine, and even hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons presented during the series.

"The mission of (the series) is to expose our students to past, present and future life experiences," said Patricia Clayton, coordinator of special programs and selector of the presenters. "It allows them to take advantage of people who epitomize top ranks of their fields, have overcome obstacles and allow (the students) to know that they too can succeed in whatever they want to."

Contact Patricia Clayton at 963-7451 for more information.

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Forum

College Hill is a dose of reality

By Gabrielle Maple
Black College Wire

The long-awaited premiere of Black Entertainment Television's *College Hill* has left many students, faculty and alumni at Southern University and other historically Black colleges and universities with a sour taste.

The show was touted as the "first Black reality show," and many were not satisfied with the image it bestowed upon the university or its students.

The characters, representing different social, economic and cultural backgrounds, paint a picture of our reality as Black people.

We have been conditioned to believe that the white way is the right way. Everybody has been waiting for the day that someone would give us our own MTV's *The Real World*, but when someone provides such a medium, we cry foul and push for the show to be canceled. We are ashamed because the show presents a direct reflection of our "real world."

The cast members should not have to put on a front for anybody.

They should continue to be themselves and show how some of us Black people really act in our communities, around other people and in our institutions of higher learning.

We are complaining that they are portraying Black students in a negative light. But I ask, what are you doing to break those stereotypes?

Those cast members were picked to represent a wide variety of people who actually go to school here. They aren't a small population among a student body of "astute scholars in pursuit of a higher education." Let's get real! Those stereotypes wouldn't exist if we didn't perpetuate those images on HBCU campuses across the country.

We are so busy trying to put on airs, as though we are so high and so far removed, that we forget that at one time or another, all of us fell into one of those categories.

Who hasn't attempted to sneak into the boys/girls dorm? What guy hasn't played two or three girls? Which of us hasn't believed we were a little bit better than someone else because we lived in a nice home with rich parents? Who hasn't

professed to be a Bible-toting, in-church-every-Sunday, born-again Christian — while doing God knows what during the week!

After we graduate from these institutions, what are we doing to give back? Maybe if there were more alumni mentors, many undergrads wouldn't make a lot of poor decisions.

We need more reality shows portraying our "real world." How about *Where's My Money Really Going?* *The Tales of Financial Corruption at HBCUs*, *Black Men: An Endangered Species* and *Mommy — Who's My Daddy?*

Maybe we will realize the problems that plague our community if someone produces a 30-minute pilot for the world to see.

Let's not let the negative aspects overshadow the positive ones. Life hasn't been a crystal stair for everyone, and the personal struggles of some of the cast members were reflected in the show.

All the cast members are actively involved in student activities, which requires a certain grade point average. They have made it this far and have made a decision to pursue a higher education.

That should count for something.

However, until we, educated Black people, wake up and realize that this is what we are producing in our communities, homes and churches, and do something about it, our reality show will continue to paint the ugly truth.

Gabrielle Maple, a student at Southern University, is editor in chief of *The Southern Digest*.

Check out the
College Hill article
on page 15 in the
Arts &
Entertainment
section

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The Meter
The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

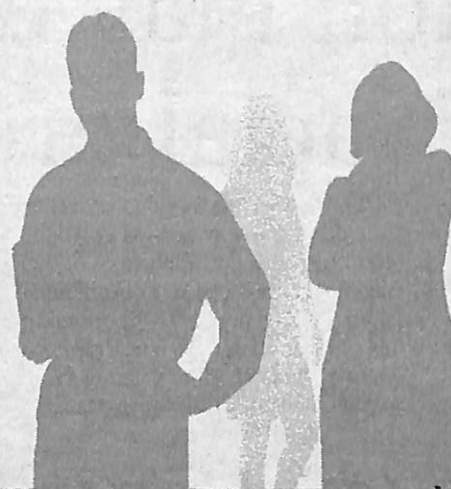
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The Meter
Mission Statement

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.*

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Community News

Dixon may be victim of racial prejudice

Continued from page 1

child molestation.

Technically, this situation fell under the purview of the statute as written. Dixon admittedly had sex with the girl when she was three months shy of 16 in February 2003. Since the girl admitted she was a virgin, her alleged sexual status is what constituted a guilty verdict.

"I think it's messed up that he was sentenced to 10 years for consensual sex," said Brittini Barnes, a freshman undecided major from Stone Mountain, Ga. "I have already signed the petition in support of Marcus."

Dixon's case is the first in Georgia to have this statute applied to consensual sex between two teenagers with less than three years of age difference between

them. When Georgia jurors heard the case in 2003, they acquitted him of all accounts that included force, and had determined beyond a reasonable doubt that the young lady was not there against her will.

Dixon's attorney, Fred Simpson, looked to have the child molestation charges dropped mainly because his client was less than three years older than the alleged victim. His attorneys have filed an appeal on the child molestation charge, and the Georgia Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the case again in the first quarter of 2004.

"Rumor had it that there was a lot of racial tension at Peperrel High School," said Tabitha Murfree, a senior from Rome, Ga., majoring in physical therapy. "I don't think his sentence is fair because they were going together and having

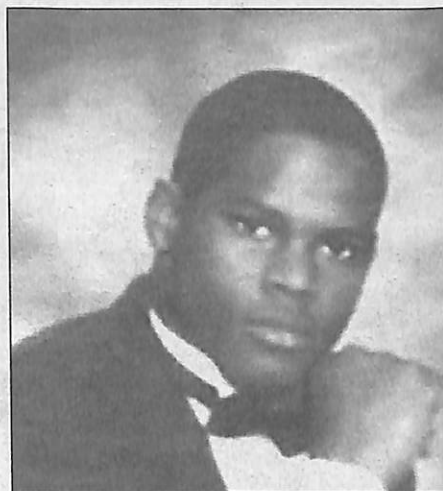


PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKCOL-LEGEWIRE.COM

Marcus Dixon

consensual sex."

There is a race issue in this trial because the alleged victim's father admitted to being racist, according to Floyd and Dixon's legal guardians, who are white. Dixon's family has received threats from members of the Klu Klux Klan.

"I don't think that (Dixon) should be in jail if it was a mutual understanding between both parties," said Chijuana Burroughs, a junior from Indianapolis. "His future is shot because of a racist parent who is (angry) at the fact that his daughter chose to have sex with an African-American male."

To become a supporter of Marcus Dixon and sign the petition, visit www.act4justice.com.

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The Meter Presents... The 4th Annual

Love & Sex Issue

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Love & Sex Issue

The perfect man



**Sherpri
G.
Giles**
Editor in
Chief

An ideal mate is hard to describe and even harder to find. He cannot be illustrated with one word like nice, honest, sweet or all the rest of the adjectives heard on dating game shows like *Elimidate* or *Blind Date*.

Many of my wants are contradictory. I desire a combination of good

and bad attributes. I can't speak for all women, but I want a man who has goals and aspirations with a touch of bad boy. The kind of man that is family-oriented, but not a mama's boy; attractive, but not a pretty boy; and someone that is outspoken, but listens. Is this crazy?

I usually seek romantic characteristics like the man who likes to watch love movies, not pornography, and yearns to eat dinner in front of a fire. Imagine compromising with your mate and watching

sports instead of Lifetime. An ideal man would cherish that moment and not take it for granted. Yet, many people attempt to gain things in relationships that they assume they should have instead of seeking what they really want to find, like love instead of money. However, some things are not meant to be understood. These characteristics are nearly impossible to find in one man. I sometimes believe that is why many people are lonely. Hey, maybe that is why I am single. •

From
Where
I Sit

Meet the 'metrosexual'



**Jamarran
E'mil Moss**
A&E Editor

When I entered my friend's apartment for dinner, she complimented my outfit and said my clothes always match. "I'm supposed to match," I said. "I'm a 21-year-old man." She then called me a "metrosexual." "A what?" I asked. She said that a metrosexual is a man who takes better care of himself than a woman.

After consulting my peers and reading fashion magazines like *Gentleman's Quarterly* and *Details*, I compiled the following list of metrosexual characteristics. 1) They get manicures, pedicures and facials, 2) They enjoy shopping and overly match their pieces of clothing, 3) They take a longer time to get ready for a date than their girlfriends, 4) They are often caught looking in mirrors more than women who check their makeup, 5) They get their eyebrows arched, 6) They own an abundance of skin and hair care products, 7) They own an *N Sync, Britney Spears, or Madonna album, 8) They wear pink, 9) They dye their hair or have weave, and 10)

They read *GQ*, *Details* or *Men's Health* magazines.

Fashion writer Mark Simpson coined the term in 1994. He said in an article in *Independent* last year, "Gay men provided the early prototype for metrosexuality. Decidedly single, definitely urban, dreadfully uncertain of their identity and socially emasculated, gay men pioneered the business of accessorizing – and combining – masculinity and desirability.... And straight men began to adopt the neurotic strategies of gay men."

Metosexuals seem to distort the attraction element toward the opposite sex because most women do not desire men who are "prettier" than them. "That is a turn-off," said sophomore Gina Lewis. "I can't imagine going to a beauty shop or nail parlor with my man. That's just like having another girlfriend."

Reggie Moore, a sophomore sociology major from Memphis said, "The roles of men and women are constantly changing. Women are becoming more independent these days. They open up doors for themselves. They treat guys out to eat, walk up to guys and initiate conversation. But there is no new word for that."

Too many times society general-

izes and invents gender standards that individuals follow without knowing why. It is time for men to define who they are for themselves instead of adapting to gender traditions that limit men from being who they really are. For centuries, men have been expected not to cry or show much emotion among several other unwritten rules.

Fifty years ago, if a man wore an earring he would be considered a homosexual.

Presently, men that are held in high masculine regard such as Michael Jordan, Ed Bradley and Jay-Z all wear earrings. Men are wearing diamond earrings and diamond watches when diamonds hold the clichéd adage that they are "a girl's best friend."

I don't like the term, "metrosexual" because it limits and simplifies the complexity of the male identity. It also lessens the strength of the heterosexual orientation. Consequently, many men have found themselves in the midst of an evolutionary process which has ultimately given birth to the metrosexual phenomenon. •

Keepin'
It
Real

What We Think The naked truth

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell was "outraged" about seeing Janet Jackson's bared breast during the Super Bowl halftime show, and citizens poured in comments to CBS, the FCC, and even local media like the *Tennessean*, whose Web site had over 150 responses to the "incident."

The FCC allows obscenity to be determined by "contemporary community standards," but it is funny that no one questions when actresses show up to awards shows wearing scanty dresses that reveal all of a woman's breast except for the nipple. Or what about Richard Hatch on *Survivor* who constantly roams the island naked on TV and whose genital area is only covered by a blur? Does this behavior demonstrate acceptable "community standards," to which children should be exposed?

Jackson's exposure was only for a split second, yet the topic practically took over all media for days following the Super Bowl. We are not condoning her conduct in any way. But we think that TV standards should be more consistent and realistic.

Justin Timberlake's song *Rock your body* is hardly "family-oriented" when he sings, *Go 'head, girl, just do/ That a** shakin' thing you do, and Bet I'll have you naked by the end of this song*. Nor was his and Jackson's dancing that overtly implied sexual activity.

What's worse? Showing a natural portion of a woman's body or pretending that singing and making off color jokes about sex, broadcasting near nude pictures and praising skimpily-clad women is appropriate television material.

Also, when America's children have ample access to the Internet, where the FCC "does not have jurisdiction over indecency," they can see flat out pornography at any given time even if they are just trying to check their email.

So, if the Super Bowl halftime performance calls for a "thorough" investigation by the FCC, it seems as though it is time for America to reevaluate all of our community standards. It's time to admit that right now we are not the wholesome nation that some seem to think we are. •

Love & Sex Issue

Masturbation Monologues 2004

Touching the secret



Gregory Brand
Layout Editor

Despite society's tendency to avoid overt conversation about masturbation, experts say it is a healthy sexual practice.

Understanding what the act is and that doing it is a personal choice will help to end the "masturbating."

By definition masturbation is the act of touching or manipulating genitalia in an effort to feel physical pleasure. As simple as that definition sounds, many people see it as nasty, unclean and sinful, to say the least.

"I don't think it's a topic that people will ever freely discuss," said a freshman business administration major from Atlanta who wishes to remain anonymous. "It's something that most people probably have in common."

Science and medicine insist that masturbation poses no threat. According to the medical writing staff of Discover Channel Health, 85 percent of medical professionals and social scientists view masturbation as normal behavior. Doctors and scientists even go on to say that most of the problem with masturbation comes from the guilty feeling of pleasuring one's self.

"People usually learn about the pleasure sensations at around two or three years of age," said Tennessee State University senior psychological examiner Lynn M. Swain. "The discovery is mostly made while bathing."

Masturbation has even emerged as a sort of media darling in the light of shows like *Sex and the City* and *Real Sex*, giving attention to the act of self-pleasure in comical and real-life situations.

Toys to aid in masturbation are as close as the local adult entertainment shop. Made popular by the cast of *Sex and the City*, the Rabbit is one of the

most popular and best selling devices for female sex toy consumers, while the 10 inch pump is a favorite with male patrons. Costing anywhere from \$32 to \$130, objects for personal pleasure are not cheap yet people are paying the cost. The largest group of consumers range in age from late 30s to early 70s, according to Media News Adult Bookstore clerk Robert S.

"Everyday people come in looking for entertainment," said Chris Williams, an employee at Adult Bookstore @ Regina's in downtown Nashville. "Business has increased since I started working here about a year ago."

Speaking on masturbation has proven to be a costly undertaking for even medical professionals.

Former Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders spoke on a platform in support of full sexual education, which includes masturbation. She later stepped down from her historic position after controversy around her comments and beliefs toward masturbation brought her competency as surgeon general under question. In most countries, masturbation is considered taboo because sex is considered a sacred ritual only for the purpose of reproduction. Some religions call it an unnatural act because there is no possibility of pregnancy. The Dec. 29, 1979 issue of the Catholic Church's Vatican Paper *Declaration on Sexual Ethics*, said that "masturbation is an intrinsically and seriously disorderly act." The paper describes the act as "self-abuse," "defilement of the flesh," and "self pollution."

That is a heavy ruling for a little self-inflicted pleasure.

The belief behind masturbation being evil and unnatural is very interesting considering that pleasure is discovered at an early age.

"Whether or not to (masturbate) is each person's individual decision," said junior mass communication major Faheem Goree. "There aren't any risks like pregnancy to worry about. I would recommend keeping it behind closed doors."

Body
&
Mind

Picks of the Pack

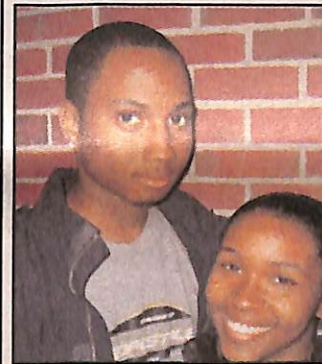
Couples' Edition

What's your idea of a nice, yet cheap, date?



Name: Faheem Goree
Classification: Junior
Major: Mass Communication
Hometown: Washington, D.C.
"Staying in and renting a movie."

Name: April Blue
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Sociology
Hometown: Ralieg, Tenn.
"Day time movie and a picnic."



Name: Marcaius Robinson
Classification: Freshman
Major: Biology
Hometown: Memphis
"Going to the caf."

Name: Erika Fields
Classification: Freshman
Major: Marketing
Hometown: Memphis
"Walking around the park and talking."



Name: Dontae Jackson
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Electrical Engineer
Hometown: Nashville
Name: Shauncia Jefferson
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Cardio Respiratory Care
Hometown: St. Louis

Both: "Sitting at home watching TV, eating your mom's food."



Name: Eric Capehart
Classification: Senior
Major: Speech Communication/ Theater
Hometown: Nashville
Name: Patience Barton
Classification: Senior
Major: Mass Communication/ Africana Studies
Hometown: Little Rock, Ark.

Both: "Home cooking, candles, movies and a burned CD."

Love & Sex Issue

The Most Eligible Bachelors



PHOTOS BY SIRR THOMAS

Freshman Hodari P.T. Brown

Hometown: Detroit

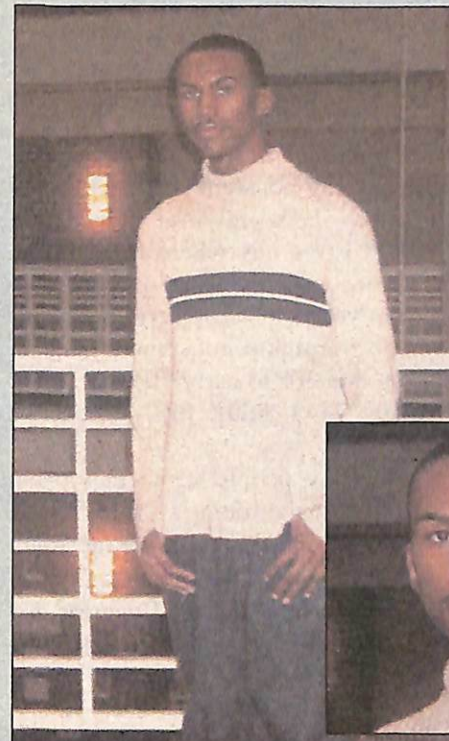
Major: Political science with teacher certification; minor in history
Goals: "My ultimate goal is to become the President of the United States of America."

Interests: Reading, writing, poetry, music, movies and playing and watching sports

Activities: Campus radio, Michigan club, pre-alumni council, chess club, freshman class treasurer

Turn-Ons: "I am looking for a girl with common sense, a beautiful smile and a sense of humor, who is ambitious, a great

cook, is open to all aspects of life and has great communication skills."



PHOTOS BY SIRR THOMAS

Sophomore Christopher Tate

Hometown: Memphis

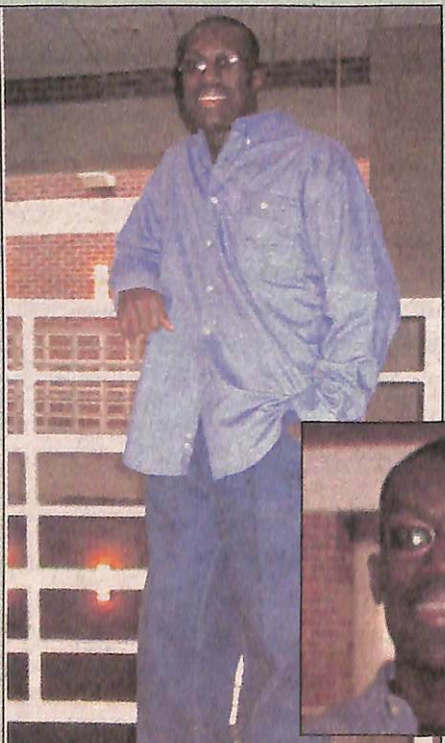
Major: Business information systems with teaching certification

Goals: "My goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in education while simultaneously changing the style of education in Tennessee."

Interests: Traveling, relaxing, cooking, poetry and reading

Activities: Student life section editor of *The Tennessean*

Turn-Ons: "My ideal girl would have great communication skills, possess a wonderful personality, have class, a sense of humor, be ambitious and be respectful of her mind and soul, rather than placing emphasis on her body."



PHOTOS BY SIRR THOMAS

Junior Elbert "E.J." Jaquess

Hometown: St. Louis

Major: Civil and environmental engineering

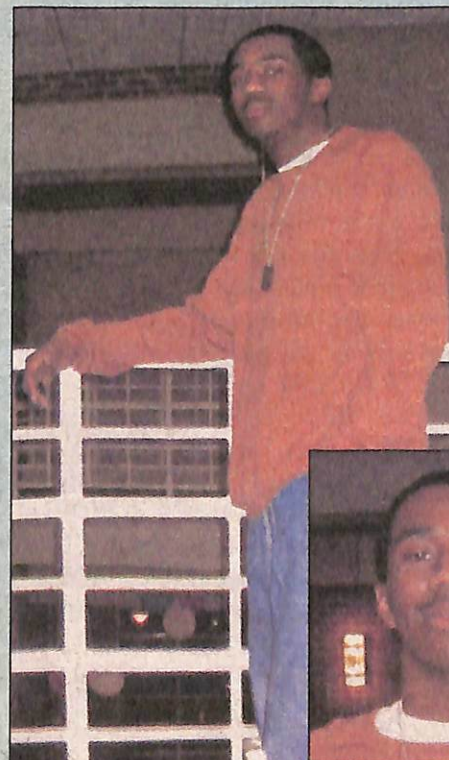
Goals: "I would like to obtain an MBA and real-estate broker's license, start a real-estate firm and/or a residential contracting company."

Interests: Music (R&B), movies, baseball, reading, exercising, cooking, bowling, meeting new people, poetry and learning new things

Activities: National Society of Black Engineers, American society of Civil Engineers, *The Meter* photographer

Turn-Ons: "I am looking for a woman who loves

exercising and music, who is God-fearing, ambitious, affectionate, caring and generous. She also has to love life, bowling and laughing."



PHOTOS BY SIRR THOMAS

Senior Douglas Christopher

Hometown: Blytheville, Ark.

Major: Electrical engineering with emphasis in computers

Goals: "My goal is to become a public relations coordinator."

Interests: Greek and Egyptian mythology, poetry, public speaking and hunting

Activities: President of Phi-Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Vice President of Pan Hellenic Council, traveling step team, coordinator of this year's Pan Hellenic Step Show

Turn-Ons: "I am looking for a woman with a high opinion of her personal hygiene, has an individual style, class and is religiously stable."

Love & Sex Issue

The Most Eligible Bachelorettes

**Freshman
Lauren Robinson**

Hometown: Atlanta
Major: Business administration
Goals: "My aspiration is to become an entertainment lawyer."
Interests: Reading, dancing, shopping, having fun and being involved in community service
Activities: Radio station/promotions department and freshman class secretary
Turn-Ons: "I am looking for a guy with intelligence, honesty and a sense of humor as well as great fashion sense."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY NORTINGTON

**Sophomore
Shana L. Mims**

Hometown: Memphis
Major: Psychology
Goals: "My goal is to graduate and just have fun."
Interests: Writing, dancing, having fun, talking, laughing and shopping
Activities: NAACP, TSU chapter
Turn-Ons: "I need a good listener, a man with great communication skills, a nice dresser, great hygiene, outgoing, fun-loving, as well as God-fearing."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY NORTINGTON

**Junior
Kelli Burke**

Hometown: Charleston, S.C.
Major: Business management
Goals: "My goal is to own my own cosmetology shop for hair, skin, nails and massage sauna and spa."
Interests: Singing, dance and helping others
Activities: Carolina Club, Junior Daughters of Our Ladies of Guadalupe (based in South Carolina)
Turn-Ons: "I am looking for a man who will be completely honest and sincere, while simultaneously possessing great communication skills. He also has to like to have fun."



PHOTOS BY MERIDITH M. MILLER

**Senior
Kristen Holloman**

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pa.
Major: Family and consumer sciences, concentration in child development and family relations
Goals: "My ultimate goal is to obtain my master's degree in educational administration and supervision and to become a principal."
Interests: Watching movies, listening to music, reading and having fun
Activities: Peer-counselor, secretary of Gamma Sigma Sigma Service Sorority Inc., member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., secretary pep club member
Turn-Ons: "I need a man who is intelligent, charming and respectful."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY NORTINGTON

The most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes were nominated and selected by their classmates via email to *The Meter*.

Love & Sex Issue

New Bush proposal promotes marriage

By Chasitie S. Goodman
Campus News Writer

President George W. Bush aims to incorporate funding in the 2005 budget for a \$1.5 billion program over five years to aid in successful marriages and interpersonal relationships, a plan targeting couples from low-income communities.

Bush's plan to promote two-parent households is a large part of his goal to drastically change the welfare system. This proposal comes on the heels of pressure from conservative groups to see the government advocate heterosexual marriage, and the administration is also bargaining on votes from married couples who are expected to see this plan as a positive investment.

Currently in America, for every two marriages one will end in divorce. For every \$1,000 spent to appease the effects of broken marriage, only one dollar is spent to actually keep marriages intact.

"Why does he feel the need to get into people's personal lives?" said mass communications major Sheena Wiley. "That's between he and his family."

In the opinions of some citizens, the proposal does have positive implications, one of which includes the ultimate goal of improving the economy. The proposal also holds promise for those projected one million children who suffer emotional distress from the breakup of marriage, and children who miss the benefit of a two-parent home.

"Bush must make sure that these families are still able to receive financial help," said Dr. Erice Doss, who serves as a TSU professor and counselor and a civil rule 31 mediator through the Supreme Court. "Back in the day, some mothers would pretend (that) the father was not around to still be able to get assistance."

The state of Tennessee offers monetary incentives to help promote healthier marriages. Couples who attend a pre-marital preparation course that is approved by their county can receive a \$60 discount off of a \$93.50 marriage license fee, according to the metropolitan government of Nashville.

"Marriage counseling encourages self-examination," said Dr. Lora

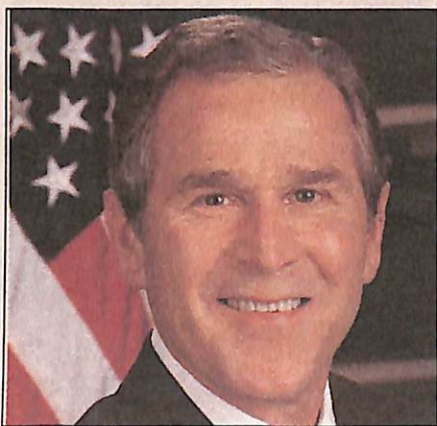


PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM

George W. Bush

Springer, marriage counselor and minister. "The couple is forced to look back on why they got married. Spiritual love is the first real love and cannot be expressed without agape, a love for God."

Doss adds, "Be sure you are equally yoked spiritually with that person first. Aristotle said it takes more courage to look inward and take control of you, than to deal with others."

The Meter made efforts to get a response from the Bush Administration regarding the proposal however, at press time no response was received.

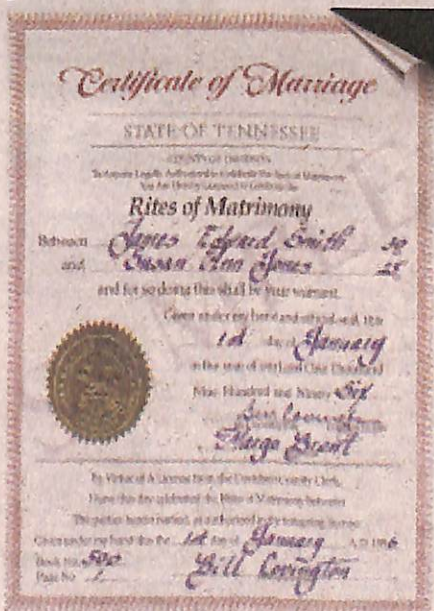


PHOTO COURTESY OF NASHVILLE.GOV

Tennesseans who undergo pre-marital counseling receive a \$60 discount on a marriage license.

Pro-life issue tags new territory

By Stephanie Woodruff and
Meridith M. Miller
Community News Writer and
Community News Editor

The state of Tennessee's specialty license plate program is under lawsuit from the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood Federation of America for issuing license plates bearing the slogan "choose life," according to the Tennessee Department of Safety.

Tennessee legislature recently passed a law authorizing its department of safety to issue the plates advertising a political and moral opinion that has been a controversial topic since the passing of Roe V. Wade in 1973, the law legalizing a woman's right to choose the option of abortion. Now Tennessee is facing a legal battle over the pro-life plates.

"(ACLU and PPFA) are suing on the grounds that the 'choose life' license plate impermissibly favors one side of an ideologically charged controversy," said Michael C. Dorf, professor of Law at Columbia University in a recent legal commentary.

The First Amendment guarantees people's right to drive around with many different political viewpoints plastered on bumper stickers and their car windows, but the ACLU and PPFA seek to bar Tennessee's entire specialty plates program on the grounds that specialty plates invariably promote some messages at the expense of others.

"I don't think anyone should be suing the entire specialty plates program because they are against pro-life tags," said Kalandra Holloway, a junior computer science major from Lafayette, Ala.

There are about 100 specialty license plates in the state of Tennessee ranging from university tags such as TSU's specialty tag design, to tag designs for Tennessee state parks. Some sororities and fraternities including Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi and Phi Beta Sigma are represented with specialty license tags.

"An attempt on the Senate floor to amend the bill to create a license plate with a pro-choice message was defeated," said Hedy Weinberg, Tennessee ACLU executive director.

Although the structure of government is designed to be impartial, some argue that Tennessee legislature is promoting one political viewpoint over the other.

"Specialty plates are optional," Holloway said, "So if you don't want to support (pro-life tags), don't buy them."

Tennessee has not been the only state to tag this issue. States across the country have had battles in court over whether or not the license plate is



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM

Pro-life license plates can be found in other states, like Louisiana.

unconstitutional. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana and South Carolina have enacted similar legislation to create "choose life" license plates.

Some states are also using the proceeds from the specialty tags to fund the distribution of biased medical and anti-choice information.

In Oklahoma, a lawsuit was filed stating that the state was not only being biased to abortion issues, but also being biased to any social issue that doesn't have its own license plate.

"By allowing anti-abortion motorists but not pro-family planning motorists to express their views on their license plates, the Oklahoma Legislature is discriminating against its own citizens and trampling on the most basic First Amendment protections," said Prescilla Smith, director of the Domestic Legal Program of the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Pro-choice supporters across the nation have been relentless in their efforts to validate their opposition to the pro-life tags, but the pro-life supporters say that the tags are within their rights.

"What plate to put on you car is the individual's choice," Holloway said. "If I want my own specialty license plate in Tennessee or anywhere else, that's my right."

Love & Sex Issue

Day spa offers Valentine's Day getaway

By Courtney Hawkins
Community News Writer

The Essense Day Spa in north Nashville offers a relaxing opportunity for a Valentine's Day treat that caters to the total body by offering an array of services.

Essense, a luxurious spa located on historic Jefferson Street, has been serving the Black community since its opening in December 2002. It is Black-owned and its presence brings a sense of elegance and style to the beloved Jefferson Street area.

"We supply the needs that we need in our community," said Kiesha Beard, co-owner of the spa with her husband. "We go to other areas and make them rich when we need to start focusing on

supplying the needs of our community in our community to make us rich."

Beard said she is excited about the spa's location which is in close proximity to Tennessee State University, Fisk and Meharry Medical College.

Upon entering the spa, one experiences sensual aromas, dim lighting and soft Hindi music. Once inside, a client gets an evaluation by the therapist to determine the appropriate and desired type of treatment.

The spa treatment includes massages, body treatments, facials, body soaks, manicures, pedicures, makeup services and waxing. Prices start from \$10 and go up to \$345, depending on the type of service. Essense offers no student discounts, but ensures that the services will be well worth its prices.

While supplying the members of the



PHOTO BY MERIDITH M. MILLER

Essense Day Spa offers an array of services.

north Nashville community's need to be pampered, Essense Day Spa has also gained recognition and generated interest from clientele in other parts of the country as well.

"We get people coming from (everywhere) to visit us," Beard said.

Essense recently serviced two ladies who visited from Atlanta just to enjoy the relaxing treatment and atmosphere of the spa. It also caters to a host of ethnicities and receives male and female clientele.

"Essense was really nice in comparison to other spas," said Aerial Ellis, a mass communications major from Memphis. "It was small, quiet and intimate."

The staff at Essense encourages those looking for the perfect Valentine's Day gift to give their loved ones to look no farther than Essense Day Spa.

"The people at Essense are very nice," Ellis said. "They make the experience more personal."•

Black athletes fall into white sex scandals



**Jamarran
E'mil Moss**
A&E Editor

It seems that Black athletes have become synonymous with sex scandals. And even a larger parallel is that these incidents are occurring over proportionately with white women.

In the past year, at least three Black athletes found themselves in court facing charges about sexual misconduct. Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant and Kansas State University's quarterback Eli Roberson have been accused of rape, and promising Georgia high school football player Marcus Dixon was convicted of child molestation. In all of these cases the alleged victims are white.

As top notch Black athletes climb the ranks in popularity, they also climb the ranks in social atmospheres. They in turn infiltrate the majority ethnicity in American society by pursuing and submitting to the white woman's affection.

Aside from many cases of true love and commitment in an interracial relationship, other Black men wear their

sexual conquests as medals of achieving a higher level of race infiltration in the Caucasian world. Having intimate relationships with a woman of a particular ethnic background should not be the determining factor of ultimate success. However, many of the most successful Black athletes have been rumored (Michael Jordan), or have been confirmed (O.J. Simpson) to have had affairs with white women.

Most Black athletes have defied odds stacked up against them throughout their lives only for their credibility to be stripped by affairs with white women that often turn sour. If Kobe were to have been accused by a Black woman in inner-city Detroit, I doubt the media would have made such a fuss about it.

So why do excellent athletes continue to find themselves in these situations?

From childhood, many athletes get special treatment like in high school when teachers are easier on them because they play vital roles to the team's success, and college recruits receive outlandish "welcome incentives" and continuous perks. As a result, some have developed a jaded sense of invincibility, and try to see how far they can go and how much they can get away with without getting caught.

And, because of the exploitation of

their athletic prowess, athletes receive a plethora of attention from the opposite sex because of an attraction to power and social status.

Right now these scandals just so happen to be occurring with white women, but the problem isn't necessarily a white or Black problem. It is more a lack of direction problem.

Coaches, teachers and wealthy fans spoil athletes, leading them astray instead of preparing them with the discipline required for the catch 22, celebrity status.

Being from Ohio, I know individuals who went to school with LeBron James and testify about how his mother was very influential in guiding him to make a comfortable transition from high school to the big leagues without becoming involved in a scandal. This is an example that others can follow.

I can't imagine the supreme pressure that star athletes feel under the public eye. They are highly scrutinized for everything they do. But they must be extra aware and careful when it comes to intimate relationships. If they choose to "mess around" with white women, they should use the regretful experiences of O.J. Simpson, Michael Jordan, and other Black male athletes as references of behavior to avoid. •

Groupies 101

Take this test and find out if you are groupie potential.

1. Do you only date people on sports teams?
2. Do you dress provocatively at a game?
3. Do you hang out after the game to see players even though you don't know anyone on the team?
4. Do you attend the games just to cheer for certain players (that you don't know) without knowing anything about the game?
5. Do you speak to athletes by their first names as if you know them personally?
6. Do you consider asking a college athlete for an autograph?
7. Does your casual walk turn into a reject model's walk as you pass an athlete's view?
8. If an athlete asks you a question, do you run and tell all of your friends?
9. Do you think about how you can seduce an athlete's mind into wanting you and no one else, and fantasize about how good you would look sitting in a press box?
10. Do you find yourself telling your friends, "He is ugly, but, girl, he is going pro.?"

Compiled by *The Meter's* sports staff. •

Love & Sex Issue

Love Lines

To: Frankie Edwards
Happy Valentine's Day to my Mama,
I love you with all my heart.
From: Kenya

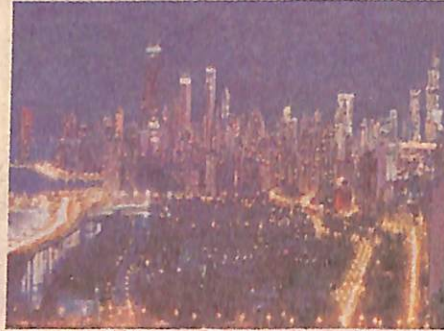
To: Tamika Jefferson
Happy Valentine's Day! I hope you have
a romantic and unforgettable day
From: U No Who

To: The 2004 May Graduates
May your last Valentine's Day at TSU
be a memorable one. Happy Valentine's
Day!
From: A fellow graduate

To: Jay Baby
I love you and I want to say you are all
I want in a man. Happy Valentine's
Day!
From: Big Head

To: G-Kelley
Happy Valentine's Day and stay sweet
From: U know don't nobody else call u
that

To: All the beautiful caramel complected
women with wraps and streaks, nice



lil body, 3.0 I mean 2.7 and up. Happy
Valentine's Day! Check for Da Album!
From: D. Lee the Iota...Regula
Chi-Town Baby!!

To: All the beautiful ladies of AKA,
DST, Z Phi B, and SG Rho
The Men of Iota Phi Theta would like to
thank you for all you do.
We love you.

To: D.C., Freddy B., B-Jersey, and
Oatmeal
Walk like a playa, talk like a
playa...nothing says "balla" like a fresh
pair of gators.

From: Paul

To: Memphis, Tenn. (Y'all know who

y'all are) Tina, Toria, and Kia
Can't none of these chicks GET ON
OUR LEVEL...it's nothing to a boss!
From: Segi



To: *The Meter* Staff
I wish Ashley Northington, Meridith
Miller, Tamika Jefferson, E'mil Moss,
Greg Brand, Brandon Talford, Sirr
Thomas, Gregory Fletcher, Tosha Jones,
Pamela Foster and others much love on
Valentine's Day. I cherish your dedica-
tion and I thank you.
From: Sherpri G. Giles, Editor in Chief

To: The TSU Community
The Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta
Sorority Inc., Alpha Chi Chapter would
like to wish everyone much love on
Valentine's Day.

To: Shemar-Nutness
Always remember when things were
simple, life was sweet and good girls

used cute guys to get A's in speech
class. Hold on to those original qualities
that made you who you were before,
and smile knowing you have a friend in
me...when you act right!
Much love,
"Wild Thang"

To: Chinky Eyes
I'm glad we've gotten cool this year,
and I hope we get even closer. You got
my number, call me so I can tell you
what's up.
From: P.F. Changs

To: All the Single Queens
Don't be too shy to approach a good



man that you like.
From: Tor

To: All the ladies
Keep your head up!
From: Kanisha

Lyricist Lounge

Gateway Drug
By Emiliano Styles

Your kiss would be like a gateway drug,
Making my addiction stronger to become
deeper in love,
I never use that word loosely,
I mean it with every ounce of what I be,
I'll never break a promise.
Cupid diagnosed me, now every week I'm
at lover's anonymous,
I need to know your name,
I'm an outcast to game. Some queens are
aesthetically
Appealing but don't speak conscious about
anything.

I want to converse with you satisfying my
curiosity of what a deeper relationship
would gain,
The main attraction is your smile, your sim-
plistic style drives me wild,
I compile new ways to lighten up your day,
Gladly, relaxation masseur techniques will
make you happy,
Sweet lady give me toothaches with each
thought,
I blew kisses that were never caught,

Roses died after they were bought,
Would of gave them to you, but you never
peered in my direction,
You never knew it was you that I sought,
let's have that talk,
No need to look any further, I've found you,
in your eyes, I'm lost,
Let's walk oblivious to the world as my
pearl, connected, enticed by your soul,
Whole personae, sweat passion like a sauna,
Don't be naive to what I need is time, let's
take a vacation not concerned with penetra-
tion, just datin', knowing you, holding you,
consoling you, I listen to you, a million
miles past beautiful,
Simply exquisite, an essence of éclat,
I never thought I'd catch a star,
Mutual visions became evident, your touch
is a gift, a present,
Your glance makes my heart panic,
Wondrous woman, here I stand,
I'm only all that I am, not a number 10
model male,
But at least I'm on the scale,
Not concerned about your past, it could
have been worse,
As long as I'm your last, I don't care about
being your first.

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TILL 1 A.M!

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DRIVE-THRU ONLY

3 HOT DOGS & DRINK
OR
2 CHILI DOGS & DRINK

BACK YARD
BURGERS

Arts & Entertainment

College Hill debut followed by rampage at Southern U.

By Jacqueline Dix, Dominique Gibbs and Nikki G. Bannister
Black College Wire

Rampaging students at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., damaged university property, raided dormitories and rocked the car of one of the cast members of Black Entertainment Television's new reality series, *College Hill*, after the show's Jan. 28 premiere.

On BET's reality show, Kinda Andrews makes such statements as "underwear can be so constricting."

The 13-part series, which BET said had the most-watched premiere in BET's 24-year history, originates at Southern.

Students began shooting fireworks, throwing trash cans from every floor — one was set afire — and male students ran through the halls of female dormitories.

When cast member Andrews arrived back on campus, she parked her car in front of the Camille Shade Hall dormitory, where she attempted to get out.

After a student shouted, "There's 'No-Drawers,'" students flocked around Andrews' car and began rocking it from side to side. An officer from the East Baton Rouge, La., Sheriff's Department used Mace on two male students to prevent them from entering her car.

The 18-year-old freshman sat calmly inside her car smiling and waving to the rowdy crowd.

"I was overwhelmed that so many people were out there," Andrews said. "I

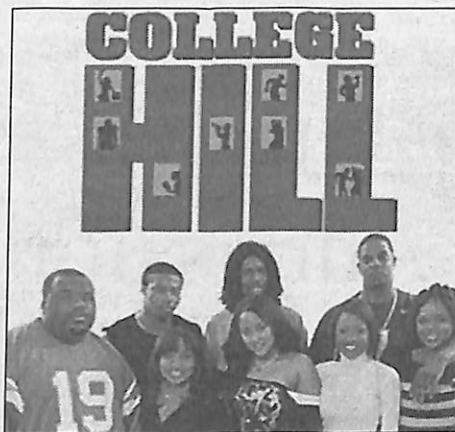


PHOTO COURTESY OF
BLACKCOLLEGEWIRE.COM

The cast of BET's *College Hill* attends Southern University.

saw all the students outside as a warm reception."

An escorted Andrews had to sneak into the back of Shade Hall, where Director Barbara Campbell ordered the lobby closed.

Andrews said that she did not attend class the next day, nor did she leave her room. She said she might not do so until things calmed down.

"I am happy about the show and was very aware that I was going to receive mixed reviews," said the self-proclaimed "wild child," who ignited conversation and controversy around the campus.

On the show, she made such comments as, "underwear can be so constricting. I think we should all just be free," and, "Why can't a woman enjoy intercourse? Or anything that a man can, just as much? And be just as good at it? I

mean, everyone has their talent, right?"

Tarianne Green, a freshman fashion merchandise major from New Orleans, said, "She should not have done the things she did on that show. She didn't represent SU well at all. Now people across the country have developed stereotypes about women at Southern. She just doesn't make Southern look good."

But Earl Jones, a staff member in the registrar's office, said that Andrews' performance made the show.

"If everyone on the show was 'goody-goody,' nobody would watch it," Jones said.

Donald Wade, alumni federation president, said he did not want to see another episode and that people who did not understand the "Southern tradition and values" should not have played a part in such an endeavor.

"I do not have one positive comment about this program," Wade said. "I'm completely knocked off my feet that something like this could be shown about Southern. Reality is something I don't understand when this is a depiction of Southern."

Andrews said she was more concerned with her family's reaction.

"My family is very supportive and are going to be there for me 100 percent," she said.

Andrews, who calls Madonna her idol, added that, "Controversy is what got Madonna where she is today. I am all for controversy." She said she was excit-

ed about the show and had no regrets.

BET said *College Hill* debuted with a 1.4 rating, which translates to 1.4 million viewers and 1.1 million households. The rating made it the most-watched series premiere in BET's 24-year history, unseating previous champ, "106 & Park Prime," which had a January 2003 debut rating of .93 (1.1 million viewers; 693,000 households), according to a news release.

BET accompanied the launch with a "Watch and Win Scholarship Sweepstakes," giving away more than \$25,000 in scholarship money to college-bound or college-enrolled students. The premiere generated more than 3,200 entries for the sweepstakes, and an online chat with Andrews filled three chat rooms on BET.com, BET said.

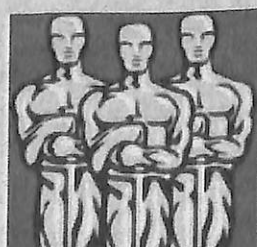
Jacqueline Dix, Dominique Gibbs and Nikki G. Bannister, students at Southern University, write for *The Southern Digest*.

Check out the
College Hill
editorial on
page 4

Black History Fact:

Hattie McDaniel was the first Black to receive an Academy Award.

She won Best Supporting Actress for her role as Mammy in *Gone with the Wind* (1939).



Interested in writing for the arts and entertainment section? Call A&E Editor Jamarran E'mil Moss @ 963-5555.

Advertisement

Tiger Tour Guides

The Office of Admissions
For Recruitment is seeking
students to be Campus Tour
Guides. If you are proud to be
a Tiger, We Want You!

The Admissions Recruitment Team will have
Tour Guide Orientations in room 309 of the
Floyd-Payne Campus Center, 3rd floor
February 9 and 10, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.
If interested, please sign up for one of these
important dates in the Admissions Office,
room 323, Campus Center.

Arts & Entertainment



Kelis – *Tasty 3*

Tasty, a 14-song venture by abstract contemporary R&B artist Kelis, is like a car with slow acceleration from the funky *Intro* to the catchy, guilty pleasure *Milkshake*, to the “money can’t buy me love” anthem *Millionaire*.

The album doesn’t reach its full speed of potential until the last song, *Marathon*, which provides a four-minute 35-second hypnotic audio journey with echoing snares and pulsating strings portraying the message of pursuing love at all cost.

Kelis has ear-catching originality that causes nostalgia reminiscent of Teena Marie and Shelie E. With her first album, *Kaleidoscope*, she explored futuristic musical innovation with assistance of then upcoming producers, The Neptunes. *Wanderland*, Kelis’ second album, was never released in the United States, but gained praise by overseas critics.

After The Neptunes entirely produced her first two albums, Kelis decided to executive produce *Tasty* using other notable producers such as Raphael

Saadiq, Dallas Austin, Andre 3000 and Rockwilder.

Kelis’ song, *Flashback* on her latest album *Tasty*, was included on *Wanderland*, for those who could not afford the special order import price to purchase that album.

Millionaire, featuring Andre 3000, sounds more like an Andre song than a Kelis song because he has more vocals than her on the track. The main downfall of this album is when guest producers appear, the songs sound like Kelis is the quest artist. Instead of a Kelis song with her definitive sound, it is more like a Nas verse with Kelis rapping or a Rappheal Saadiq song with Kelis singing it. Though Kelis’ own musical personality is drowned out by familiar producing, her lyrics provide an interesting female perspective that women everywhere can relate to.

If this album was a double CD, the first seven songs would get a one and the last seven would get a five giving an



PHOTO COURTESY OF STARTRAX RECORDS

Kelis

overall average of three rating.

Jamarran E’mil Moss

Musiq- *Soulstar-3*

Soul-singing, musical superstar Musiq reaches for the stars and grabs a little of their dust on his third album *Soulstar*.

By incorporating smooth new school yet old-fashioned R&B styles, strong jazz influences and the undeniable hip-hop factor, the outcome is nothing short of a rich musical treat made just for personal enjoyment.

That personal factor is one of the album’s strongest points. Each and every topic covered on the album is something that someone out there has experienced in life.

Narrating life and showing his humanness through open, honest expression in his music are what make Musiq such an endearing artist.

This album marks the beginning of Musiq taking more of a risk in production and guest appearances. On his previous two albums he placed a majority of the vocal responsibilities on himself as well as playing it extremely safe using mostly ballads and radio-friendly jams. This album uses the voices of special guests Kindred, CeeLo, Bilal and Dawn Robinson and A’Aries as well as more retrospective gems and tracks that invoke a sense of nostalgia recalling memories of Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder.

The nostalgia is most present and well-used on the hit lead single *Forthenight* with its strong disco influences as well as the grinding beat on *Whereareyougoing*. With the old school backtracking, he has found a nice way to

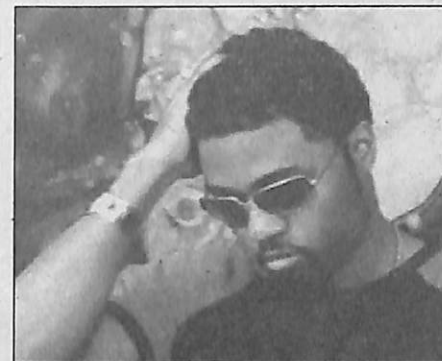


PHOTO COURTESY OF DEF SOUL RECORDS

Musiq

deliver something fresh in the music world.

Concentrating mostly on love and living life, Musiq makes the most of his latest effort by daring to be more than the normal male singer. He steps away from hiding his feelings and vulnerabilities and puts them into full view.

Tracks like *Momentinlife* featuring Kindred and CeeLo give praise to a good day and the joys of life while the potent message of *Womanopoly* gives overdue respect to the strong women in our lives.

The album’s main weaknesses come in the form of Musiq sticking too closely to his comfort zone. While most of the songs are very good, it could very well be the second disc to 2002’s *Juslisen*. While we all need love, it wouldn’t hurt to give us something else.

Bottom Line: True and even casual Musiq fans will enjoy the album, but others may want a little more.

Gregory Brand

New movie releases:

Barbershop 2: Back in Business

– Sequel to the hilarious *Barbershop* where the neighborhood’s traditional barbershop’s business is threatened by the recent relocation of a big beauty shop chain. Starring: Cedric the Entertainer, Ice Cube and Eve.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM

Miracle – This story portrays the victory of the 1980 U.S. hockey team over the top-seeded Russian squad. Starring: Kurt Russell, Patricia Clarkson and Nathan West.

Ice Cube and Cedric the Entertainer return in the sequel to the hit comedy *Barbershop* in *Barbershop 2: Back in Business*.

Catch that Kid – When an adolescent child’s father has an accident that depletes the family’s funds, he plans a heist at a local bank to help his family rebound financially. Starring: Kristen Stewart, Sam Robards and Jennifer Beals.

On DVD/VHS:

Intolerable Cruelty

Sylvia

In the Cut

Wonderland

The Lion King 1 1/2

Angel: Season Three

Fire Down Below

Sports

Celebration reminds both teams of their solidarity

Continued from page 1

often discussed their teams' concerns with each other.

"If (the women's basketball team) hurt, we hurt," Rogers said, wearing a number 17 Joe Gilliam Jr. jersey. "If (the men's basketball team) hurt, they hurt."

Rogers admitted to almost not attending the celebration because he was "all wrapped up in the Super Bowl" until a woman reminded him that he should "never forget where you come from."

Rogers said, "I came to TSU from Detroit with nothing. I refused to go back to Detroit with nothing... I had to win."

TSU President James A. Hefner, Vice-Mayor Howard Gentry and OVC Associate Commissioner for Operations Ron English welcomed Rogers, his teammates of the 1992-93 and 1993-94 OVC championship teams, the members of the women's 1993-94 OVC Championship team, head coaches, assistant coaches and team managers. The celebration committee displayed game highlights of the three seasons on a projector.

TSU's current athletic director, Teresa Phillips recited poet/author Maya Angelou's *Phenomenal Woman* poem

deeming that her 1993-94 team included "phenomenal women." She said that the men and women's team would have to run down Ed Temple Boulevard and up a hill to a McDonald's on Clarksville Highway and back.

"...(W)hen I was coaching, we didn't have 20 hour rules," Phillips said. "We could make the team practice after a game if we wanted to..."

The Lady Tigers' all-time leading scorer Swift, who received cheers as she walked to the podium, spoke on behalf of the honored Lady Tigers. Swift leads the Lady Tigers in all-time career points with 2,054, all-time career steals with 302 and ranks third with 7.9 rebounds per game. She is working on her doctorate degree in education at the University of Tennessee at Martin and has a nine-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son.

"They are in the process of rebuilding," Swift said of the current Lady Tigers. "We all go through a rebuilding season. (Before) I came to TSU the team was 50-50. You have to build your own winning team, and I think that is what they are doing right now."

Other guests were the daughter of former head men's basketball coach Allen, who spoke on behalf of her father,

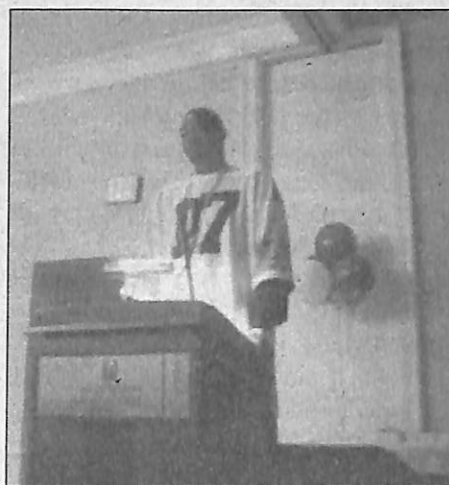


PHOTO BY TAMIKA L. JEFFERSON

Carlos Rogers speaks at 10th Anniversary OVC Basketball Championship Celebration, Jan. 31.

who was out of town preparing Howard University for an upcoming basketball game; current head men's and women's basketball coaches Cyrus Alexander and Sharon Allen; a host of the players' family; TSU faculty and local newspaper reporters. Rev. Elijah McGee led the group in a prayer before the meal. The TSU Aristocrat of Bands performed throughout the celebration, the cheerleaders greeted all the guests and the team mascot danced to the band's music.

The master of ceremonies was assistant sports information director Kindell Stephens. The celebration ended in the singing of the alma mater.

"Today's luncheon reminds me of why TSU athletics have been so inspirational to our community," said Cass Teague, a TSU alumnus and photojournalist for the *Tennessee Tribune*, a local Black weekly newspaper. "...(T)he athletes and the coaches have been doing what former TSU President W.S. Davis likes to call 'a plus and deluxe fashion.'"

See related basketball story on page 19

Do Sports!

Interested in writing for the sports section? Call Sports Editor Tamika Jefferson @ 963-5649.

Tiger basketball remaining schedule

Date	Opponent	Women	Men
Mon. Feb. 9	at Eastern Kentucky.	5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Thu. Feb. 12	Eastern Illinois	5:45 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 14	Southeast Mo. State	5 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Thu. Feb. 19	at Murray State	5:15 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 21	at Tennessee- Martin	4 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Thu. Feb. 26	at Samford	5 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 28	at Jacksonville State	5 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Tue. Mar 2	OVC Tournament First Round		TBA
Fri. Mar 5	OVC Tournament Semifinals		TBA
Sat. Mar 6	OVC Tournament Championship		TBA

Sports

Allen confident to lead team in rebuilding 'process'

By Sheena Hamilton
Sports Writer

The challenges of rebuilding a basketball program to a winning program bring doubts to fans, but new women's head basketball coach Sharon Allen said that she is confident in her knowledge of the game and her coaching ability.

The Lady Tigers are 1-17 and 0-8 in the Ohio Valley Conference, but did something that the men's basketball team could not do; defeat Fisk. The Lady Tigers beat Division III Fisk University 88-38 in the team's best showing of the season Jan. 19, in the Gentry Center.

However, the victory over Fisk marks the Lady Tigers' only win of the season.

"I really don't think there is any hope for the Tigers this year," said Jamela Wilbourne, a sophomore from Dallas majoring in mathematics. "It is a building year. I am looking forward to next season though. I know they will do better."

The coaching staff is still focusing on the small things like defense, rebounding and making good shots, Allen said. TSU connects on 31.4 percent of its shots, while opponents hit 45.4 percent of their shots. Teams are winning by a 23-point margin against the Lady Tigers. Opponents record 3.5 more rebounds than the Lady Tigers and turn over the ball four times less. The team only shoots 59.3 percent from the free-throw line.

"If winning was easy, everyone would be doing it," Allen said. "We just have to keep practicing hard, building and learning each day; it is a process."

In the next couple of weeks the Tigers will be taking on the second best team in the conference, Jacksonville State University, 10th ranked Samford, then Southeast Missouri and Eastern Illinois.

Senior guard Kisha Stewart of Memphis leads the team in scoring with 12.1 points per game. Nashville native Odessa Kelley, a senior forward who sustained a knee injury at the beginning of the season, averages 9.4 ppg and 6.8 rebounds per game.

"It is a journey," second-year athletic director Teresa Phillips said. "The team is beginning to look a little more



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Sharon Allen

competitive, they have been having some closer games. I just want to give the program the opportunity to recruit and develop."

Since Allen has headed the area of recruiting at five other universities before TSU, including the recruitment to Mississippi State of WNBA first-round draft pick LaToya Thomas, Lady Tigers fans expect her to bring in some talented players to the program in the next couple of years.

Looking ahead to next season and the development of the team, Allen signed five new recruits in the early signing season. She signed shooting guard Madison Adam from Madison, Miss., forward/center Shannon Lloyd from Collinsville, Miss., center Wauneta Wallis from Detroit, shooting guard Tierra Young from Lena, Miss., and power forward Martina Peteét from Kosciusko, Miss.

Peteét recently was chosen as one of Mississippi's top performers of the week from Jan. 20-26 for her 30-point contribution to her team's 68-56 win over West Point High School by a local newspaper paper, the *Clarion Ledger*.

"I think that it is great to hear about all of the new recruits," said Charmaine Helms, a sophomore from Alton, Ill., majoring in accounting. "I am ready to see what is going to happen, I know coach Allen did not have a lot of time to recruit for this season, but I'm sure she and her staff have been busy working to find some new players for the upcoming year; change is good."

Team statistics cited in this article are accurate as of Feb. 6.

Tigerbelles' "A" team places first

The Tennessee State Tigerbelles' "A" team placed first in the 4x400 meter relay in the TSU Invitational, Feb. 1., on the Ed Temple track.

Freshman Porsche Buckner, freshman Joycelyn Gardiner, sophomore Rebekah Robinson and junior Jennifer Lawson placed 1-4 in the 400-meter dash, with times under 59 seconds.

Senior Flying Tiger Nick Horton won first place in the 200-meter dash, with a time of 21.63.

The Tigerbelles' "A" and "B" 4x440-yard relay teams placed first in each team's section with overall times of 3 minutes and 50.20 seconds and 4:13.21. Western Kentucky's "A" and "B" teams fell into second place with times of 4:00.02 and 4:18.74.

TSU also competed against runners from University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Jackson State and host MTSU.

Side tracks

Flying Tiger's first OVC honor

Tennessee State senior 400-meter dash runner Nick Horton won the Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Male Track

Athlete of the Week after his first place finish in the Blue Raider Invitational, hosted by Middle Tennessee State Jan. 24, with a time of 47.61 seconds.

His time is the fastest 400m time Nick Horton ran so far this season. Last year, Horton won both the 200m (21.63) and 400m (46.85) at the OVC Outdoor Championships.

Compiled by Tamika L. Jefferson*



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Sophomore Tigerbelle's time improves

Tennessee State Tigerbelle Rebekah Robinson, a sophomore from Missouri City, Texas, won the 400-meter dash, in the Blue Raider Invitational, hosted by Middle Tennessee State Jan. 24.

She won with a time of 58.12 seconds, running the 400-meter dash 1:33.00 less than the last time she previously ran. Robinson ran a time of 59.05 and won second place, behind Porsche Buckner, in TSU's Ed Temple Classic Jan. 11.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Rebekah Robinson

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