



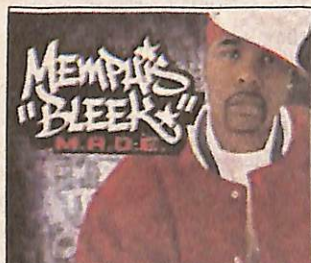
See if TSU students take the risk to lose weight with Ephedrine.

Page 3



Read opinions on the country's political condition.

Page 4



Check out the review of this hip-hop icon in the making.

Page 10



Find out how close the Tigers came to victory.

Page 11



PHOTO BY SIRR THOMAS

Dante Mitchell displays a sign in support of the Africana studies department during the protest in the amphitheater Feb. 19.

Elevator installation prompts protest

By Ashley Northington and Chasitie Goodman
 Campus News Editor and Campus News Writer

Approximately 150 students rallied in the Laura M. Averitte amphitheater on Thursday, Feb. 19, to protest the installation of an elevator into Elliot Hall, which is expected to be built by May, because its erection would diminish space allotted for the Africana studies department.

Facilities management director Sam Polk said the building is in "serious violation" of the Americans with Disabilities Act because the elevator housed within the building is not equipped to handle students or faculty with disabilities. The elevator in Elliot Hall is 4 feet by 4 feet, according to

Polk. The typical size of an elevator that meets ADA requirements must measure 6.6 feet in width, 5 feet in depth, and the doors must open up 3 feet wide, according to the ADA accessibility guidelines.

"(Africana studies professors) do not want to seem insensitive to the needs of disabled students," said Dr. Wosene Yefru, an Africana studies professor. "We just want an alternative space."

Tor Ajanaku, the self-proclaimed spokesperson for the Africana Studies Society, said, "We are rallying to show the administration and everyone that students should have a right to fight for things that are morally right."

Architects made plans for the construction of the elevator without the consent of the department, according to Ajanaku. Steve Gillette, Tennessee State

See "Losing" on page 2

New recruits may refresh Lady Tigers

By Jessica L. Simmons
 Assistant Sports Editor

As the Lady Tigers basketball team nears the end of the season with a 1-24 record, the program anticipates the contribution of new recruits in the 2004-05 season.

With three graduating seniors, the team is estimated to return with five newly-recruited players, possibly two more Kisha Stewart is signing on for the one of three approaching season, according to head bas-



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

See "Remaining" on page 11

TSU scholar contributes to NASA, Mars

By Ashley Northington
 Campus News Editor

Norman Ahmad, 22, a senior from Atlanta, interned this past summer with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., where he contributed in making preparations for the recent exploratory launch to Mars.

Initially, he helped establish the satellite link-up between the Mars Exploration Rover System Standard Test Bed light, which is a remotely operated vehicle used to search Mars for rock and soil samples, and the JPL planner's network, a group of scientists and engineers who monitor the Rover's data. This was accomplished by assembling aluminum cast supports and then erecting a

See "Engineer" on page 3

Campus News

Hefner receives Presidential Leadership Award

By Daniel Veiga
Campus News Writer

The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education selected Tennessee State University President James A. Hefner to receive the Presidential Leadership Award, the organization's highest-ranking award, for his ongoing contributions to allow Black students to receive a quality education at TSU.

"We at NAFEO are proud of the tenacity and patience Dr. Hefner has dis-

played in the educational area by insisting on standards of excellence for our institutions," said Frederick S. Humphries, president of NAFEO and former president of TSU. "He played a significant role in raising standards to bring our students into this new millennium prepared to take full advantage of every available opportunity."

NAFEO, founded in 1969, is an association of historically Black colleges and universities. The organization's main purpose is to implement programs and policies that affect minority student



PHOTO COURTESY OF
TNSSTATE.EDU

TSU President
James A. Hefner

enrollment, using diverse strategies to ensure an increase of Black students and HBCUs.

"NAFEO's work in the arena of ensuring educational opportunities for African-Americans is unparalleled," Hefner said. "For

me to be recognized by such a highly-respected organization is a humbling honor and I pledge to continue my commitment to African-American achievement in higher education."

Hefner, who has presided at TSU for 14 years, is the longest serving president in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, which is the sixth-largest higher education system in the United States. He is scheduled to receive his award on March 6 at a banquet during the annual NAFEO conference in Washington, D.C. •

Losing space causes concern in Africana studies dept.

Continued from page 1

University's campus planner, said there was miscommunication with the architect who came into the department office without his consent.

The department expects to lose 150 square feet due to the new elevator's proposed size of 180 square feet, which is "equivalent to the size of an office," according to Polk.

The proposal for the elevator's building plans is to clear space from the interior hallway and an adjoining classroom in order to erect a public hallway within the office leading to the elevator.

Although the Africana studies department only had 16 students who chose to major in the field last fall, some leaders in the Africana Studies Society said they believe that the production of the elevator would hurt the department.

"It was understood that the elevator was to be ran through the department," said Africana studies department work-study student Rosalyn Carter, a freshman from St. Louis majoring in nursing. "No other alternative space was offered to us."

Carter, as well as faculty member Yefru, questions facilities management and campus planning's decision to build the elevator through the department.

According to Polk, information given at the rally was "erroneous" and the production of the elevator will enhance the department that loses space because it will be offered space in another part of the building. The detail of



PHOTO BY SIRR THOMAS

Tor Ajanaku, spokesperson of the Africana Studies Society, speaks to his peers at the rally.

where an alternate space is expected to be located has not been determined.

Jamarran E'mil Moss, a senior from Columbus, Ohio, majoring in speech communication and theatre, incited protesters to march to the administrative building to discuss their views about the situation with President James A. Hefner. After his encouragement, approximately 75 students went into the administration building, but were met with TSU police who tried to tame the group.

Ajanaku and six members of the central committee of the Africana Studies Society met with Hefner, William D. Lawson, dean of the college of arts and sciences, and Augustus Bankhead, vice-president for academic affairs, on Friday, Feb. 20. Ajanaku said Hefner acted as if the students were invisible and treated them "as children." They were not permitted to present their information and Bankhead told the students to take the loss as a sacrifice for the

department.

"The planning committee offered us an alternative space currently used as a janitor's closet," Ajanaku said.

Bankhead said, "We have a responsibility to all departments. The university is taking action that it needs to take."

When Marie Strange Hall was being renovated and the band had to practice in Elliot Hall, the band was given a definite alternative space, unlike the Africana studies department, according to Moss.

"I feel that the administration, mainly Bankhead and Hefner, does not take Africana studies seriously," Moss said. "Africana studies is dedicated to enriching TSU students on their heritage, which TSU, as a whole, is losing. This is deeper than just the elevator. They think we had a rally to create controversy. It is not about that. It is about preserving our culture." •

Corrections

- Dawn Reese, former TSU volleyball coach, was incorrectly reported as Fisk University's assistant athletic director in the Feb. 23, issue. She is unemployed.

- Yvonne Y. Clark, featured on page 8 of the Feb. 23, issue was the first woman to receive her bachelors degree in mechanical engineering at Howard University.

The Meter regrets the errors and continuously strives to improve.

Campus News

Engineer conquers doubts, enhances experience

Continued from page 1

10-foot diameter dish that served as the major components of the satellite.

"Lots of people, including African-Americans, feel we are not capable of handling technically demanding professions," Ahmad said. "Overcoming my own self doubt was the biggest obstacle."

Ahmad said he doubted himself because he had never been given an opportunity to explore all of his potential. He soon realized that if he could see the obstacles, (then) he had unfortunately taken his eyes off of his goals.

The mechanical engineering major had two objectives during his internship: to design a remotely operated vehicle that would be able to get underground after creating its own network of channels and tunnels, and to give field support to the engineers and scientists regarding the first field test of a Mars Exploration Rover.

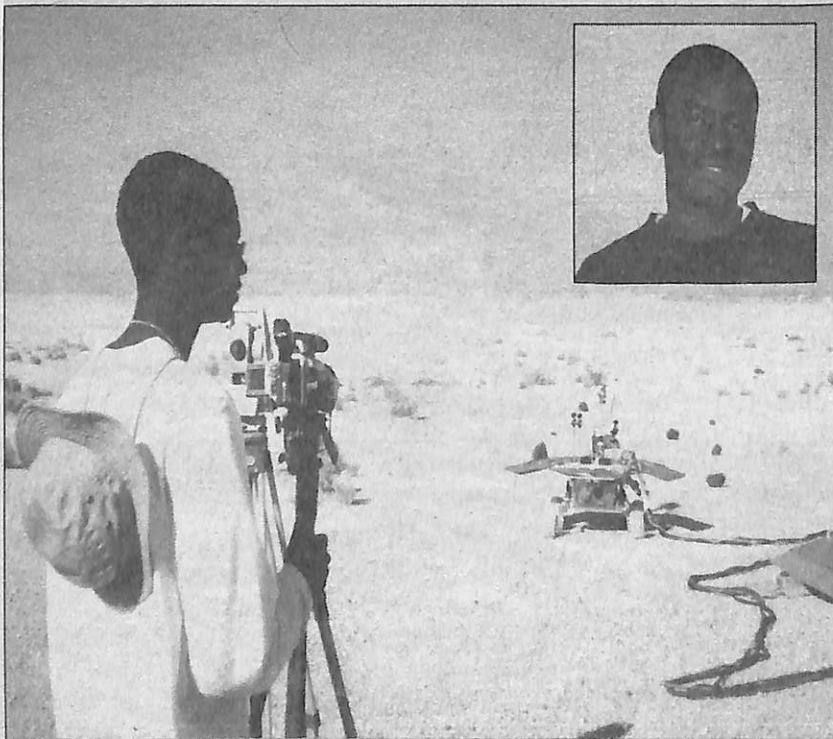
"This experience was imperative in building my engineering skills," Ahmad said. "I really enjoyed the opportunity."

After his initial tasks were accomplished, Ahmad also performed a survey, which determines the accuracy of the Rover's position on the test field, a control function that manages the wires that connect the Rover to its power source, and a way to connect and disconnect Rover's tether cable.

Ahmad's future goals include developing his own robotics company to be named the Ahmardian Co., and opening an enrichment school for troubled youths who feel they are unable to perform in the technical field.

Tennessee State University offered Ahmad the internship opportunity through the college of engineering and technology because he met the criteria of maintaining a grade point average above 3.5 and possessing a general interest in space science technology.

He has maintained a 3.56 GPA, according to his unofficial transcript, due to his life philosophy, "picture yourself as a postage stamp. It ensures success by sticking to whatever it is on until it reaches its destination."•



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORMAN AHMAD AND ASHLEY NORTHINGTON

Ahmad tests the Mars Rover during his internship with NASA.

Diet pills provide weight-loss rewards, potential problems

By Candace James
Campus News Writer

Although the rapid weight-loss catalyst Ephedrine has been linked to numerous health failures, Tennessee State University students have had tremendous success with the drug.

Ephedrine, a white odorless powder or crystalline alkaloid from the genus plant Ephedra, is the active ingredient in weight-loss products such as Hydroxycut and Xenadrine. It is prohibited for weight loss due to 155 deaths and several hundred strokes and heart attacks, according to the Food and Drug Administration. However, TSU students still use the product to aid with their dietary habits.

"I bought 10 (Xenadrine) bottles before they took them off the market," said Monique Wilson, a sophomore majoring in business management from Washington, D.C.

Wilson, 23, said she lost 90 pounds in two months. She said she started taking Xenadrine because her co-worker informed her about a family member's success using the product. The cost of the pills range from \$30 to \$60 per bottle.

"I switched to Zantrex once, but it did not work...I need an Ephedra product," she said.

Nearly 64 percent of Americans are overweight, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One in 10 Americans use weight loss pills, according to the World Health Organization.

Despite the health risks, many advocates of Ephedrine said they believe it is safe when used as a dietary supplement rather than a drug, according to the FDA.

"I used Xenadrine along with my exercise plan and it helped me lose the weight fast and gave me a lot of energy," said Miss Senior 2003-04 Candace Johnson, from West Bloomfield, Mich., who said she lost 30 pounds using an Ephedra product. "I took the pills as directed, but it made my heart beat real fast at times."

Johnson began a workout program called Power 90 that made her lose weight while toning and sculpting her body. She said she had been battling with weight her entire life, but she wanted to see her "body potential at its best."

"I worked out 20 to 30 minutes a day and six times a week for three months," she said. "This is the best way to lose weight and

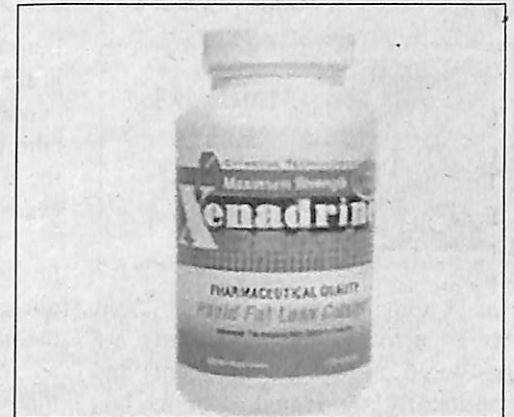


PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE.IMAGES.COM

Xenadrine RFA-1 has been proven to dramatically increase the rate of fat loss.

feel great."

With college students constantly on the run to class and social activities, many students do not exercise or eat healthily, according to Frazier. She said college students can eat and exercise without too much time taken away from their normal lives.

Frazier recommended people to eat to live and do not live to eat. She said eating ice cream and French fries is OK as long as it is eaten in moderation.

Next, she suggested walking 20 to 30 minutes three times a week. This can be done by changing certain habits such as taking the elevator and walking to class instead of driving. TSU has the newly built gym for students to get in shape.

Third, she said, students should eat breakfast. This is important because it fuels the metabolism and gives the body energy. Whether it is toast or yogurt, the body needs something in the morning, she said.

Finally, she said, students should eat snacks and drink an ample amount of water. Teenagers as well as college students frequently have acne because they neglect to drink enough water. She advises students to drink at least six to eight glasses of water per day. Throughout the day she recommended eating healthy snacks, such as carrots, nuts or trail mix.

"If you really want to lose weight it will take patience, time and sacrifice that only a determined person will achieve," Frazier said. •

Forum

What political issues are important to the TSU student body?



Matthew L. Evans
Political Columnist

Campaign signs are in front yards across America, slogans are plastered on highway billboards and politically motivated commercials are popping up on television in prime time. These are definite signs of an election year. With political season upon us, it is time to start bringing to the forefront issues that are important to American citizens. However, with so many different types of citizens, what many consider "important" issues may greatly vary. There are elderly citizens who are concerned about healthcare and social security. There are middle-aged citizens who are worried about taxes and governmental spending. Then, there is the American college student, who is worried about... what is the American college student worried about this election year?

At Tennessee State University, students not surprisingly have different stances on what issues are important. Marquis Best, a sophomore majoring in English from Bronx, New York, said he believes a major

issue that youths face in this country is the lack of job security. With the economy fluctuating daily, Best admits that college students entering the work force might not be as successful as in previous years.

"With the loss of over two million jobs this past year, the future doesn't seem as promising as it has in the past," he said.

Other students believe that affirmative action, the war in Iraq and on terrorism, healthcare and the economy are major issues that need to be addressed.

Kory Boone, a senior majoring in business information systems from Prince George's County, Md., said the only way to solve all of these problems is to "Get Bush out of office." While I don't believe that is the answer, I do believe that these issues are of high importance to all Americans.

With the Democratic primaries heating up between John Kerry and John Edwards and with the Bush administration unveiling its political ads, political season is indeed in full swing. These politicians (or as I like to call them, "public servants") have an ample amount of time to prove to the American voters how they can help solve these many problems our nation faces at such a volatile time in our history. As for the issues concern-

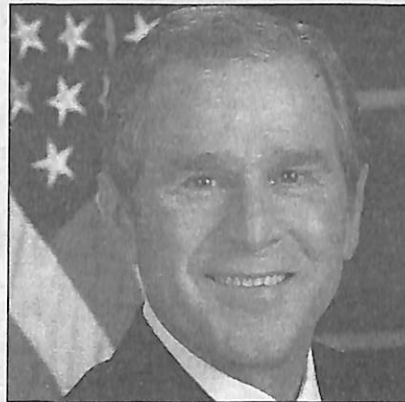


PHOTO COURTESY OF AEMIL

President George W. Bush

ing TSU students, according to the Bush administration, jobs are on the rise, which is good news, and affirmative action is still in place. Even though we are winning the war on terrorism no one is quite sure when it will end. The economy does seem to be rebounding well, Bush is making the best of a real tough luck situation and he has conducted his presidency in an efficient manner. Now, time will only tell if all of these major issues will be addressed, and if they are or if they are not, students at TSU and across the country will have the opportunity to respond by voting in the November election.

What We Think

'Twas the week of mid-terms

'Twas the week of mid-terms
And all through the yard
Students were full of shock
And completely caught off guard

They had just gotten settled
Into the brand new year
And low and behold, the mid-term crisis
Has already made its way here

For many this is the week
That holds the final straw
And crucial decisions are made, like
"I think I'm going to withdraw."

For others it's just
A manifestation of how time flies
And a sign that the end of the year
Will come in the blink of an eye

But for all our fellow Tigers
Traveling through the mid-term mist
The Meter staff would like to send
A great Big Blue, good luck wish!

CHECK OUT THE METER'S WEB SITE

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The Meter

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

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

Forum

Courvoisier clothing line hopes for drunk consumers



Dayna Lovelady
A&E Writer

The 170-year-old cognac brand of liquor Courvoisier looks to launch a high fashion clothing line, Atelier Courvoisier, in the fall of this year.

With hopes of being the next Gucci or Chanel, designers of the Atelier Courvoisier line are already causing fashion critics to ask questions about the line. For example, how many women want evening wear named after a bottle of booze? How many business-professional men want to wear a suit named after liquor? What if one doesn't drink alcohol, should they patronize the line? If it looks and feels good, should it matter?

France's Allied Domecq is the world's second largest alcohol company and it sponsored Atelier Courvoisier's first fashion show as well as the \$600,000 investment in two TV commercials. The lavish runway fashion show was held for New York's fashion week in early January. The collection included two dozen items of luxury sportswear for men and women. There was no Courvoisier served at the show and sorry, Courvoisier is not included with any item purchased from the line.

While the average bottle of Courvoisier costs \$26, a deerskin trench coat will cost men \$10,000. Women, how about a \$750 purse with silk ribbons and replica medallions from the Napoleonic era? Courvoisier isn't the first liquor to aim for high fashion status, Absolut Spirits showcased the Absolut Fashion collection in 1987, which was not a long-lasting success.

Recent Courvoisier liquor ads have gained popularity among the newer "urban fans" generated from Busta Rhymes' hit song *Pass the Courvoisier* featuring Puff Daddy. This song was not a result of a product

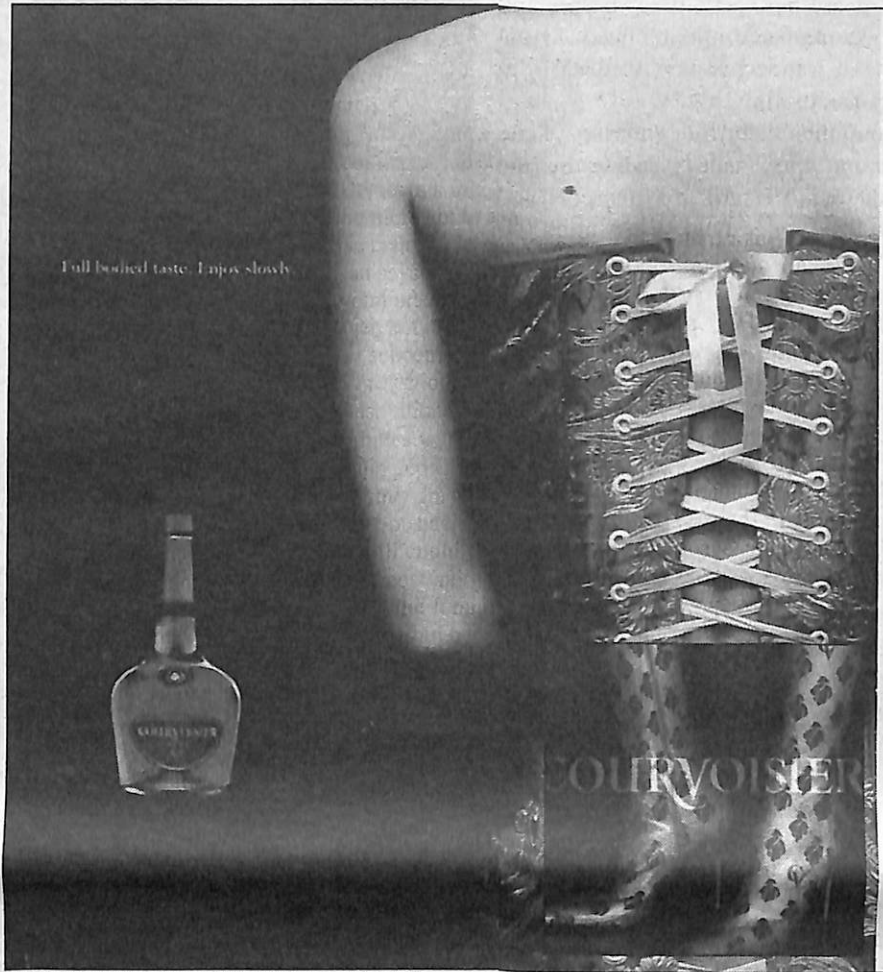


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMITAWARDS.COM

Allied Domecq plans to launch a new clothing line, Atelier Courvoisier, this year.

endorsement from Courvoisier, but an artistic choice by Busta Rhymes. This sent the sells of the top shelf liquor through the roof with a double-digit increase in U.S. sales. In return, Courvoisier gave a promotional deal to Busta Rhymes' management company, Violator. Russell Simmons also

teamed up with ad agency Global Hue to produce an ad featuring a model in pink boots, a red silk dress and diamond earrings spelling the logo "CV." Such ads are said to target the urban community.

Allied Domecq's chief executive Kim Manley said he is prepared for a stir, according to *The Scotsman* newspaper.

"It's open to a level of cynicism or criticism," he said.

The Courvoisier company is pro-

jecting first year sales to be between \$1.5 million and \$3 million. The company's overall goal is to transform the Courvoisier liquor label into a lifestyle brand.

Are we ready for a lifestyle brand set by liquor? Just because the name behind the clothing line is successful, that does not make the line itself a success. I do not believe this line will be a hit in the urban community because of the high price. If it does become a success in the urban community, it will be because of bootlegging and Courvoisier will not see revenues from this. I do predict it to be a short term success in the celebrity and runway fashion community. Let's see how far it goes.*

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:

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

Fashionably
Speaking

Campus News

Sister Soujah challenges Black women

By Chastie S. Goodman
Campus News Writer

Approximately 300 people were in attendance while Sister Soujah discussed the importance of loving truthfully and sincerely as "African people" and Black women perpetuating their derogatory title as female dogs on her visit Thursday, Feb. 26 for an open-mic book signing presentation.

Sister Soujah verbally administered a test by asking female students if they were the type of girls who have sex without any information, like whether or not the guy is in school or has a job.

"If the answer is yes to any of those questions, then you are the (female dogs) I am talking about," Soujah said.

Soujah said women perpetuate their titles by acting on animal instincts, such as, "seeing something you like and humping it" just like dogs.

Soujah also stressed the importance of living as strong African women, not

the American standard of "cute and stupid" like singer Jessica Simpson.

"I heard her speak twice before and I had to see her again," said Shana Laster, a Vanderbilt law student from Montgomery, Ala.

Souljah's visit to Tennessee State University was made possible by the Student Union Board of Governors and the Student Government Association.

"We decided to get one big speaker because we knew lots of people would attend due to her popularity," said Ernestine Clemments, the corresponding secretary of SUBG from Birmingham, Ala.

The author, activist, recording artist and film producer also visited the University of Louisville this past October, and she still has the people talking. Her speech and its aftermath have received coverage by Fox and numerous commentaries by citizens all across the country.

Soujah was invited to speak after a \$50,000 fund was provided by Bank One



PHOTO BY SIRR THOMAS

Sister Soujah writes notes during her visit at TSU Feb. 26. in Kean Hall.

to the U of L for a Diversity Lecture Series. This fund was formed after racially slanderous T-shirts were distributed on campus by representatives from the same company. The shirts read, "10 Reasons Why Beer is Better Than the Black Man." The Association of Black Students asserted that the money should be used to

raise racial awareness.

"It sounds like you have some angry racists, young and old, who are used to peaceful times on the good ol' plantation," she said to the students at Louisville in response to the storm her visit created. "Now they are ready to behead the uppity slaves that had the nerve to invite in one of those fancy talking 'free Blacks' to campus."

Souljah is the author of two books, *The Coldest Winter Ever* and *No Disrespect*. She gained national attention with her work as a rap artist and affiliations with fellow artists Public Enemy in the early 1990s. Souljah continues her work as a social activist and philanthropist working with P. Diddy with the Daddy's House charities.

"I had never read anything by her before," said Shandall Rowser, a freshman from Chicago majoring in architectural engineering. "It was not that interesting to me."•

Non-traditional student believes in 'expressing yourself'

By Daniel Veiga
Campus News Writer

Jerry Craft, a 37-year-old sophomore, took a journey through the music business before becoming a Tennessee State University student.

Originally from the Seattle area, Craft became a professional musician at the age of 17. He worked with several musicians including Robert Cray, a blues artist, and Albro Swift, a popular blues group from the late 1980s. Craft also performed studio work for different grunge bands in the Seattle area. Prior to attending TSU, he attended Green River Community College in Seattle but left after one year to tour. When Craft retired from the music business three years ago, he decided to pursue a college education.

"I chose TSU because they

seem to offer a high value of education for the dollar and also (the school) has a significant minority population," Craft said.

Although most people would mistake Craft for Caucasian, he is of Native-American descent from the Snoqualmi tribe. Craft is married, has three children and has maintained a 3.65 grade point average.

"My kids are very supportive of me going to school and are excited about it...they are behind me 100 percent of the way," Craft said.

In his spare time Craft enjoys playing blues music with friends as well as building and riding chopper motorcycles.

"Jerry is a phenomenal person...a very caring individual who puts others before himself and not to mention a talented musician," said Ryan Thompson, a close friend of Craft.

Craft is an English major and



PHOTO COURTESY OF JERRY CRAFT

Jerry Craft

after graduation he hopes to teach creative writing to high school students because he said he believes that expressing oneself is one of the most important things in the world.

"Learning how to express yourself in the written world is a great aspect to have as an adult...as compared to the music world," he said. "So much can be expressed in writing."•

TSU Swimming Pool

Gentry Complex x-5610

Monday through Friday 6:30-7:30 am
Faculty/Staff Swim Club

Monday through Friday 12-1:30 pm
Open swim
with lap swimming

Monday through Thursday 7-9 pm
Open Rec swim

- Pool open to all Faculty, Staff, and Students.

* T.S.U. ID required to enter swimming pool!

- Pool available for rentals & pool parties
contact Dept of HPER, 3rd fl, Gentry Complex.



Currently accepting applications for life guards

Community News

50 years later Howard Law School remembers Brown v. Board

By Shara D. Taylor
Black College Wire

Fifty years ago this May 17, the Supreme Court ruled in the five cases known as Brown v. Board of Education that "in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place." That set in motion the end of the officially sanctioned segregation that had existed since the end of the Civil War.

The Howard University School of Law presented a panel of lawyers who worked on the case. Including in the Jan. 21 discussion, "The Lawyers Who Defeated 'Separate But Equal,'" were Robert L. Carter, Julian R. Dugas, Oliver W. Hill Sr. and Louis H. Pollak, who all played significant roles in the Brown victory.

Hill remembered the time he spent at the Law School with classmate Thurgood Marshall, who as director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., argued the case against segregated schools before the court.

"It was a wonderful time to have been there," said the legendary civil rights lawyer, born in 1907. Recalling that the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision upholding "separate but equal" facilities was still the law of the land, Hill said, "Plessy made us not even second- or third-class citizens, but sometimes it pushed us to fourth-class citizens."

Chronology of Brown case

Being at Howard at that time caused Hill to question what part he could play to help improve the state of Blacks in America, he said. He recalled what Charles Hamilton Houston told him about the civic responsibility of lawyers: "Any lawyer who is not a social engineer is a parasite to society."

Dugas, a professor at the School of Law, recalled that when he attended the school, students would go to the "sub-basement" of Founders' Library, where the Law School was housed, to practice dry runs of their cases. Dugas worked on the companion D.C. school desegregation case, *Bolling v. Sharpe*.

Carter, who also delivered oral argument in the Brown case, said he believed

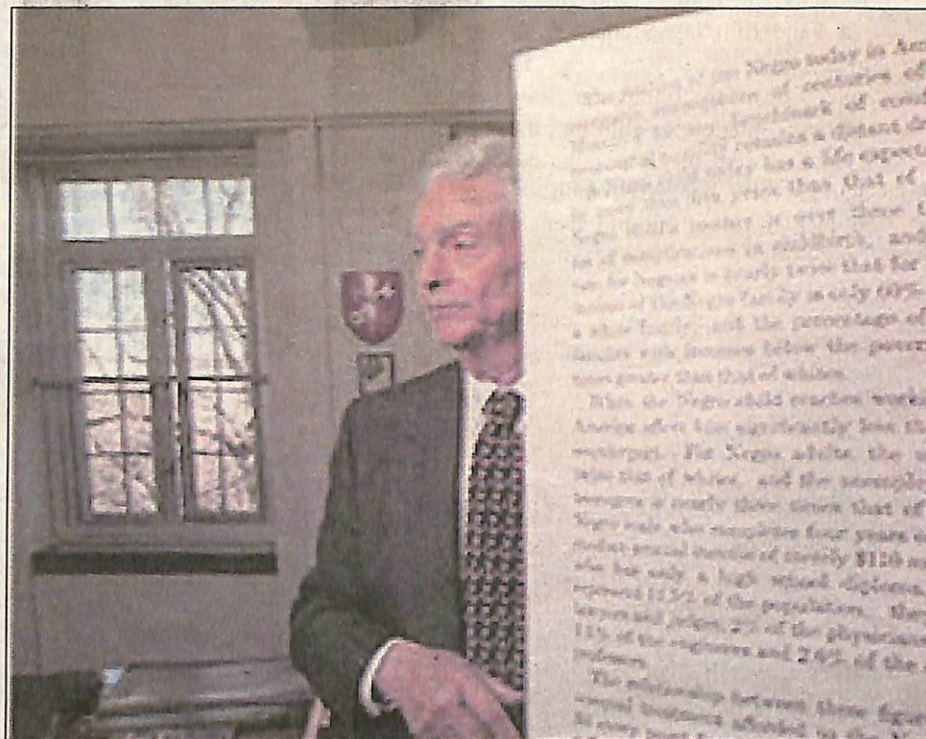


PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKCOLLEGEWIRE.COM

Julian R. Dugas, shown in this photo, worked on the companion D.C. desegregation case.

that being able to take part in one of the most important events in American history gave him the opportunity to show America the deep impact racism made on Blacks.

"It was an honor and a privilege to achieve Houston's objectives to secure entry of Blacks into all graduate schools and colleges," said Carter, who is now a U.S. District Court judge in New York.

Citing the "doll" test, in which young Black children identified positive characteristics with white dolls and negative characteristics with Black ones, Carter offered the courts a view of how Black minds developed in a racist society.

He encouraged the next generation of leaders to take a stand in their communities.

"Do not just do your best, but do something that is worth it. It will make the community better than when we found it and after we leave and pass on," he said.

Pollak, now a U.S. District Court judge in Pennsylvania, said he viewed the opportunity to work with such legal giants as Marshall and Houston as a way

to reveal to the rest of America the effects of segregation. "I jumped at the chance to work with great figures and

show that racial segregation in schools is damaging to Black children," he said.

Third-year law student Alina Hadi said she understood her predecessors' significance. "It is important to know what they went through to reach desegregation," she said. "It is amazing to be in the presence of these people, and we should all be thankful" for them.

Third-year law student Melinda Scott agreed. "It is inspiring to see who put the building blocks in place and allowed us to be here today," she explained. "We would not be able to entertain the dream to work in big firms, in international law and have stature in the government, and we certainly would not have diversity in our class."

Nytaino Romulus, a first-year law student, stressed the importance of continuing the legacy. "They are a source of inspiration because they championed the movement. Instead of being complacent with the issues today, drastic revolutionary change can still be achieved," he said.

Shara D. Taylor, a student at Howard University, writes for *The Hilltop*.

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Community News

Picks of the Pack

Do you think TSU should conduct campus activities in support of the gay and lesbian community?



Name: Muhammad Nasir

Classification: Sophomore

Major: English

Hometown: Atlanta

"I don't think there should be activities, because a lot of people would find them offensive. If you do (gay and lesbian functions) you should do it on your own time."



Name: Ashley Cole

Classification: Sophomore

Major: Biology

Hometown: Jackson, Tenn.

"I don't disagree with homosexuality, but I think that an open acceptance could cause conflict on campus."



Name: Elaine Dawson

Classification: Junior

Major: Speech Communication and Theatre

Hometown: Cleveland, Miss.

"Yes, considering that we have gays and lesbians on campus, if we don't have activities to support them, then it's like we aren't giving (any) support at all."



Name: Brandon Goodrich

Classification: Junior

Major: Business

Hometown: Memphis

"I don't support homosexuality, but there are many different organizations, and everyone should have that opportunity."

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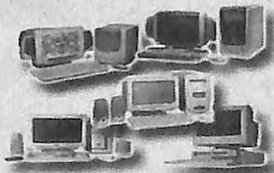
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Community News

Gays at Howard U. feeling more comfortable

By Kevin Harris
Black College Wire

Two Septembers ago, the Bisexuals, Lesbians and Gays Organization of Students at Howard University led a rally on the upper quadrangle, angered by an attack on Darryl Payton, a sophomore theater arts major, by members of the university's Showtime marching band trumpet section.

"I was shocked that an attack like the one against Darryl happened at the Mecca," one student said using a nickname for the university. "If it could happen to Darryl, it can happen to me."

Today, student leaders at Howard say they are confident that their strides to create an environment free of discrimination for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students on campus has been a success. They give administrators high marks for their efforts to confront discrimination.

Howard has appointed a liaison through the Campus Police Department who is in constant contact with student leaders to ensure that incidents of discrimination are minimal.

Referring to the Bisexual Lesbian And Gay Organization Of Students At Howard, student government president Daniel Blakemore said, "We have been cooperating on a consistent basis with BLAGOSAH on many issues that the administration may not want to deal with because of some conservative views

from trustees."

Blakemore said his main objective when negotiating with administrators was to make them understand that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students were like everyone else. He acknowledged, however, that more could be done.

"Sensitivity training for students and faculty would be a step in the right direction to better inform everyone, as well as to get rid of the prejudices that plague us about homosexuals," he said.

Belinda Watkins, dean of student life and activities, shares Blakemore's view. "The university is committed to following all federal rules and regulations pertaining to discrimination. We believe that no one should be discriminated against on the basis of race, sexual orientation, or anything else," she said.

Justin George, treasurer of BLAGOSAH, agreed that the university could do more to address the concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students, known collectively as GLBTS. But he said he believes that "Howard is progressing in the right direction. The university has been supportive for the most part, but there is always more they can do. The question is whether they have the resources to do it," he said.

George added that the faculty "has always been supportive and is pretty consistent with its support."

As for the student body, George said that overall, treatment from his peers is



PHOTO COURTESY OF
BLACKCOLLEGEWIRE.COM

Howard student Darryl Payton, whose attack prompted a campus rally, speaks to a crowd in September 2002.

good but could be better.

"The student body is made up of so many cultures and some are more accepted than others." He also said there had been instances where he felt white people were more accepted than gay people. When he considered whether to attend Howard, George said the treatment of GLBTS was not a part of his thinking. "I just assumed that people at college would be on a higher intellectual level and more open to different people. I came with that belief naturally," he said.

For heterosexual students, gaining a better understanding of their gay and lesbian peers is "just a matter of getting out of their own comfort zone and looking at someone else's point of view and

lifestyle," George said. The GLBTS are simply "trying to be comfortable with who we are and want everyone to see that were not trying to force our lifestyle on anyone else."

Sophomore print journalism major Tiffany Bolden agrees that gay students should be allowed to be themselves without being discriminated against, but said she believes the university is "walking a thin line" when attempting to grant them equality. She said, "I have mixed emotions about this. I do believe that Howard shouldn't discriminate against homosexuals, but they also shouldn't cater to them so much as to upset heterosexual students."

Rhonda Buckner, executive director of the Metro Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays' D.C. Chapter, is critical of those who hold conservative views. "They live under the false belief that if you condone it you spread it," Buckner said. "They must come into the 21st century and recognize that students who come to Howard are all different."

Buckner said that Howard could remain neutral and continue to fight discrimination against GLBTS by "supporting groups like BLAGOSAH and showing a swift and effective response when there is an incident of discrimination to show concern for ensuring safety."

Kevin Harris, a student at Howard University, writes for *The Hilltop*. •


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Arts & Entertainment



M.A.D.E. Memphis Bleek 3/5

Bleek's gonna be a good rapper. New and improved Jay-Z
-Vol.2. *Hard Knock Life Intro* by Jay-Z

After a two and a half year absence from the rap game, Bleek is back with his latest album *M.A.D.E.*

Since his first verse on Jay-Z's debut album *Reasonable Doubt*, Bleek was considered to be the future, but after two gold albums most hip-hop fans feel he has not lived up to expectations.

From the very first song listeners can tell that Bleek is more mature. From track one to track six, this album is strong. Bleek has help from the likes of Jay-Z, Beanie Sigel, T.I., Trick Daddy and Freeway.

After track six, when Bleek is solo, he falters. Songs such as the Michael Jackson remake of *P.Y.T.*, featuring Donell Jones lacks the lyrical punch as the previous tracks. The songs with

Bleek alone lack energy and sound forced. The only solo songs that shine are *Understand Me Still*, featuring up and coming Roc-A-Fella records R&B artist Rell. On this track Bleek gets personal and he talks about what has happened in his life during his absence from rap. He mentions major purchases for his family members, the deaths of loved ones and the effect that his rap career has on his life.

Overall, this album is OK and leaves room for improvement. Bleek is a good rapper, but in order to be Jay-Z he will have to make more than just an average album and find an identity and voice of his own.

Marques L. Evans •

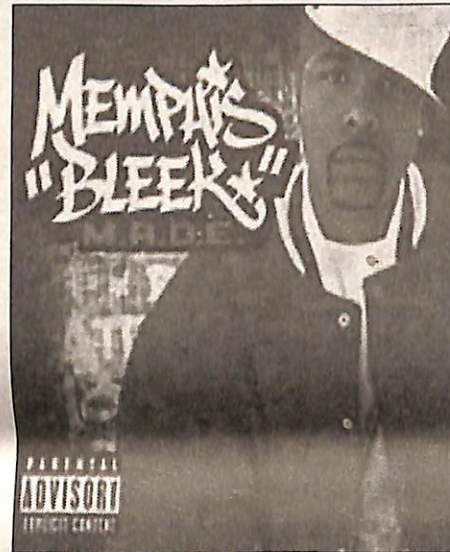


PHOTO COURTESY OF LYRICSCHART.COM

Memphis Bleek's newest album is *M.A.D.E.*

Verizon holds HBCU student art competition

By Jamarran E'mil Moss
A&E Editor

In the spirit of great Black artists such as Jacob Lawrence, Aaron Douglas and Romare Bearden, Verizon launched its third annual call for art entries from Black college students Feb. 9.

This national competition is open for all student artists interested in submitting paintings, drawings or photography compositions. This competition promises serious artistic individuals financial and professional rewards. The deadline for receiving artwork is April 30.

The prizes for the competition are as follows: A \$25,000 grant donation to the historically Black college or university the winning artist attends, a \$2,000 cash prize and a 12-week paid internship with an ad agency. The first place winner will be granted \$1,500 and the second place



PHOTO COURTESY OF BGS.G.ORG

winner will win \$1,000. All other semi-finalists will have their art work placed on display in a New York Art gallery.

For more information on this competition visit www.verizon.com/artcompetition.

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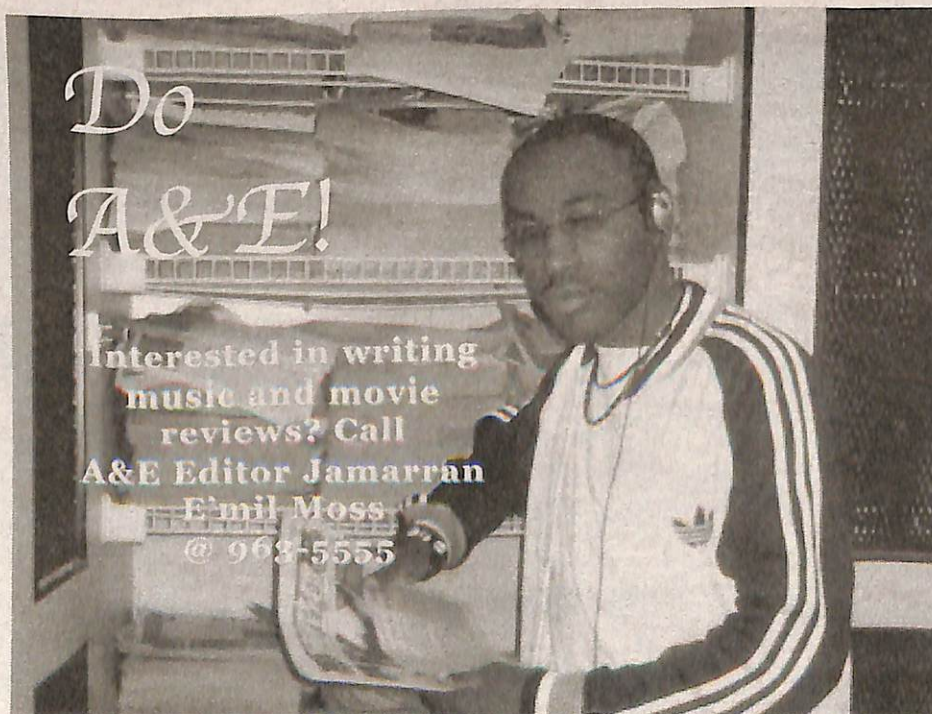
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Sports

Tiger basketball stomps out UTM

The Tennessee State men's basketball team (7-19, 7-8 OVC) defeated the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawks (8-18, 3-11 OVC) 81-72 Saturday, Feb. 21.

The Tigers' freshman guard Bruce Price led all scorers with 31 points.

Senior Garrett

Richardson post-

ed 18 points

and senior

Brandon

Lockridge

added 10

points.

UTM's lead-

ing scorer was

Jared Newson

with 26 points. The

OVC tournament has first round action,

Tuesday, March 2. The semifinals and finals are scheduled for March 5 and 6 in Nashville at the Municipal Auditorium.

Tigers lose grip on close victory

The Tennessee State men's basketball team lost 88-72 to the Murray State University Racers (22-5, 12-2 OVC) Feb. 19.

Roshau

Bowens led the

Tigers with 23

points on nine of 14

shots from the field.

Guards Bruce Price,

Brandon Lockridge



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Roshau

Bowens

and Adrian Pritchett added nine points respectively.

The Racers' top scorers were Rick Jones with 26 points and Cuthbert Victor with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

Softball team splits double header against Lipscomb

The Tennessee State softball team (1-1) split the double header season opener to cross-town rival David Lipscomb, Wednesday, Feb. 18. The Tigers dropped the first game 3-7, but won the second 2-1 in a pitcher duel.

Left fielder Caryn Barber and center fielder Amanda Buhler were responsible for TSU's three runs in the first game. Shannon Hicks recorded two RBIs on three for four hits.

Game two featured a top-notch per-

formance from pitcher Alana Thomas. Thomas recorded her first win of the season by pitching a complete game with eight strikeouts only allowing one hit.

Offensively, second baseman

Misty Adfield batted **Amanda Buhler** three for three and scored the team's only two runs. The next home game for the Tigers is set for March 6 against Western Illinois.

Compiled by Eddie Cole



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM



Remaining scholarship funds are used at Allen's discretion

Continued from page 1

ketball coach Sharon Allen.

"I am looking for players who want to be dedicated and be able to compete," Allen said. "Players are recruited, but I'm looking to make them better on and off the court."

Allen signed shooting guard Madison Adam from Madison, Miss., forward/center Shannon Lloyd from Colinsville, Miss., center Wauneta Wallis from Detroit, shooting guard Tierra Young from Lena, Miss., and power forward Martina Peteet from Kosciusko, Miss.

Allen said she recruits and assesses talent in order to have depth on her bench. She also has goals of teaching and developing skill.

Alongside being recruited, students have the opportunity to try out. However, walk-ons do not receive scholarships. Students can try out for the team in October, Allen said.

Fifteen scholarships are allotted for the women's basketball team for discretionary use. If all of the money is not used, Allen said the remaining funds are used at her discretion.

"If I see that there's a player that I find fit for a particular season and (she is) what we needed for that year, then I

could roll the scholarship money over for another year," she said.

According to TSU's second-year athletic director Teresa Phillips, the women's basketball team received \$572,360, not including \$10,000 from administration funds. In October 2003, the team's operating expenses totaled \$529,360, according to the TSU Revised Budget Summary 2003-04.

"I don't feel that money is being wasted in the athletics department," said Tanisha Davis, a senior from Nashville majoring in nursing. "Every team does not have a winning season every year."

Phillips said she cannot publicly assess the program due to lack of appropriateness, but at the conclusion of the season, each program is evaluated. Phillips chose Allen as the new coach and reassigned former head coach



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Athletic Director Teresa Phillips

Valencia Jordan as a senior woman advisor.

Although Allen did not produce a winning team this year, she said that her aim is to progress players on to the Ohio Valley Conference championship. She said her primary goals are to focus on the

future and taking the Lady Tigers to the next level. She said that the Lady Tigers take pride in their game, but they also feel that student and faculty attendance at games would provide additional support.

The Lady Tigers' season average attendance is 6,156 compared with the team's opponent average of 16,405 fans per game. Last season the Lady Tigers averaged 679 fans per game.

"We need fans who recognize the daily sacrifice of our students and coaches in representing the Big Blue," Phillips said. "Sporting events are an overall experience. (B)ut the team and the actual competition must be cheered and supported."

She said that people support athletics during bigger events, such as football homecoming, but people need to support athletic events all the time.

"If it's not (men) sports, then students are not interested," said Crystal Doss, a junior from Nashville majoring in agricultural business. "Society has that mentality that women and sports don't go together, but they do."

"If I see that there's a player that I could find that could fit for a particular season ... then I could roll the scholarship money over for another year."

-Sharon Allen, head women's basketball coach

Arts & Entertainment

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