



See what part singer Myshel played in the spring concert.

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Find out why Coral is depicted as a "Sista with an Attitude."

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Check out Uma Thurman in Tarantino's *Kill Bill* Vol. 2.

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Find out how this sophomore is taking care of business on the field.

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PHOTO BY SIRR THOMAS

The Tigers prepare for the fall season and their 37 signees during the annual Blue and White game in Hale Stadium on Saturday, April 17.

## TSU's football program signs most in OVC

By Eddie Cole  
Sports Writer

Thirty-seven players, the most in the Ohio Valley Conference, signed national letters of intent to play for the Tennessee State University Tigers football team next season.

Last season's OVC football champions, the Jacksonville State University Gamecocks, signed 19 players. Tennessee Tech University signed the second-most in the OVC with 24 and Southeast Missouri University signed the fewest with 12.

"We wanted to make sure we cov-  
See "Recruit" on page 10

## Executive VP to assist Hefner deemed racist

By Chasitie S. Goodman  
Campus News Writer

Avid supporters of Tennessee State University accuse the Tennessee Board of Regents of using racist motives in naming an executive vice president to run the university.

Hefner supporters held a forum at Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church on Monday, April 19, in their words, to "Stop the Takeover of TSU." The supporters sent letters to Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen and TBR Chancellor Charles Manning requesting permission to meet with them. Some supporters have said the executive VP position is a racist step leading to stripping TSU of its Black leadership and culture.

"We don't necessarily need a white person to manage a Black school," said Korita Bogarty, a sophomore from Cleveland, who is majoring in child development with teacher certification. "Although race is not an issue with me, I don't feel a white person would be able to relate with all of TSU's Black students."

According to TBR Director of Communications Mary Morgan, President James A. Hefner is working "hands on" with the board

See "Hefner" on page 2

## Tiger golf soars with Black woman coach

By Tamika L. Jefferson  
Sports Editor

Tennessee State University alumna Catana Starks, founder of the university's men's golf team, is the cornerstone of the team's success.

Starks said the athletic director in 1988 asked her to spearhead the plan to begin a

men's golf team for TSU after the university joined the Ohio Valley Conference. Today she is the only Black woman who coaches an NCAA Division I men's golf team.

"It's ironic that I am coaching a sport that African-Americans weren't allowed to play or go to for a means of relaxation or enjoyment," Starks said. "I took up the sport while teaching high school in Saginaw, Mich."

The recruiting practices by TSU's golf program are attracting prospects who research the schools that best fit their talent. Most prospects research using *PING*, a 368-page book started in 1989 detailing more than 1,200 universities and junior colleges' golf programs and scholarship opportunities. According to pingolf.com, almost 90

See "Golf" on page 11



## Campus News

# Hefner works 'hands on' with executive VP selection

Continued from page 1

to select someone to fill the newly-created position. The top operations officer is required to be knowledgeable about managing an "urban institution." It carries a salary of about \$150,000-\$160,000 that is expected to come from TSU's budget.

Founded in 1912 for Black students, TSU's student body consists of 26 percent non-Black students, an increase of 24 percent since 2001. In 2001, TSU was required to boost the recruitment of non-Black and nontraditional students, due to the Geier consent decree, a settlement of a 32-year legal desegregation case.

According to TBR, the executive VP will have the following duties:

- Provide primary leadership on the implementation of the Geier Consent Decree

- Serve as chief operational officer
- Assume responsibility for implementation of audit recommendations

- Serve as chair of the campus executive committee composed of campus VPs and others as identified by the executive VP

- Provide supervisory leadership to the VPs

- Provide leadership oversight to the implementation of the audit recommendations

- Represent the president in his absence at internal meetings

- Represent the university at meetings of TBR and Tennessee Higher Education Commission in the president's absence

- Serve as the university contact with the foundation for the implementation of the foundation audit recommendations or oversee the transition to an independent foundation along with the president

- Perform other duties as assigned

Candidates for the position should preferably have a doctorate degree, leadership abilities, experience at the administrative level, fiscal planning and budget management abilities and understand the role of an urban, public institution, according to TBR.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TNSTATE.EDU

### James A. Hefner

"The person in the position is going to be there to provide senior level assistance," Morgan said. "Dr. Hefner will still be heading the fundraising and be the face for the press."

TBR officials thought Hefner should have someone "assist" him with managerial duties. TSU is financially suffering due to the \$2.36 million deficit from misappropriated scholarships.

"It has been discussed with Hefner," said Stanley Rogers, vice chairman of TBR. "President Hefner has embraced the idea. (The executive VP) is not there to supplant President Hefner, but to assist President Hefner."

Although Hefner made recommendations for an executive VP job description, Raymond E. Richardson, co-chair of the committee to implement the Geier improvements, Davidson County Councilwoman-At-Large Carolyn Baldwin Tucker and District 54 state representative Edith Taylor Langster, both alumnae of TSU, as well as Samye Dixon of the NAACP Nashville chapter are among group leaders who distributed flyers stating Hefner was exonerated of all criminal allegations, conflict of interest and full disclosure charges.

The flyers also stress that Hefner raised \$10.6 million in five years for scholarships and endowments and that he believes his fundraising was bringing in adequate money, averaging \$2.12 million per year.

Hefner, who did not attend the

meeting, has relied on writing letters to represent himself. His wife, one of his three sons and other family members were in attendance.

"The Bible can always be used as a basis of reference," said 1998 TSU alumnus Shawn Thompson. "It teaches us that we all have done wrong. Hefner had a greater goal in mind; he wanted to make sure all students had an opportunity to receive an education. What is most important is that we learn from all experiences good and bad."

Rogers said the decision for an executive VP "was needed because of the five-year history of these scholarships... and the significant amount of money that was involved."

Of the six universities under the TBR system, Middle Tennessee State University, The University of Memphis, and Tennessee Tech University all have either a provost, who is similar to a VP, or an actual VP. Their duties differ from one school to another. However, none of these positions were initiated under the same circumstances as TSU's.

"I agree with bringing someone in," said Paulette Butler, a junior majoring in business information systems from Nashville. "He does not have time to handle both responsibilities."

### To find out more:

**Financial audit:** [www.comptroller.state.tn.us/sa/reports/cu04014.pdf](http://www.comptroller.state.tn.us/sa/reports/cu04014.pdf)

**Athletic audit recommendations:** [www.comptroller.state.tn.us/sa/reports/in013223.pdf](http://www.comptroller.state.tn.us/sa/reports/in013223.pdf)

**Geier Consent Decree:**

[www.tnstate.edu/opr/docs/history](http://www.tnstate.edu/opr/docs/history)

## Events Calendar

### April 26

Swim party

Gentry Center

7 p.m.

### April 27

Lecture: Judge

Mablean Ephriam

T.E. Poag

Auditorium

1:40 p.m.

### April 28

Senior meeting

FPCC Forum

Noon

### April 30

Tiger Fest

TBA

Noon - 4 p.m.

### Correction

• Vanrine Peets Jr., a former candidate for representative at large evening, was not included in the Student Election Commission special section of *The Meter* published April 19.

*The Meter* regrets the error and continuously strives to improve.



Campus News

# TSU hosts spring concert

By Candace James  
Campus News Writer

Appreciating students and their parents, Tennessee State University's Division of Student Affairs hosted the TSU Student/Parent Concert April 23 in the Gentry Center Complex drawing in a crowd of approximately 1,500.

The concert featured The Manhattans, Jerry Butler, TSU Showstoppers and alumna Myshel.

"We always love Nashville," said Blue Lovette of the Manhattans. "We just don't come here enough."

The concert opened with the Broadway-style performers, the TSU Showstoppers, who performed show tunes. Michelle (Myshel) Robinson-Wilkins, Miss TSU 1999-2000 and a Radio One Contest winner, was the second performer. Jerry Butler from Jerry Butler and the Impressions performed following the closing event from the Manhattans.

"The concert is an appreciation event for our students and their parents, something that both can share and enjoy alike," said Dorothy Lockridge, assistant vice president of student affairs. "This is one



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSU PUBLIC RELATIONS.

## 1999-2000 Miss TSU Michelle Robinson-Wilkins aka Myshel

of many ways to get the parents more involved and interested in TSU student-related activities."

Jerry Butler and the Impressions are a male group that developed in the early 60s; it included R&B mogul Curtis Mayfield. Jerry Butler left for a solo career with his hit *He Will Break Your Heart*, which reached number one in the United States for R&B and number seven in the pop charts in the 1960s. Mayfield,

who also added guitar and background vocals, wrote the song.

Butler, whose group used to be called The Roosters, asked Curtis Mayfield to join the group after they decided to change their name to The Impressions.

The Manhattans, whose hits include *Kiss and Say Goodbye* and *Shining Star*, were formed in the early 60s. In 2003, the group released its first studio album in 15 years, featuring *Turn Out the Stars*, which became one of the year's best songs.

"I am honored to be performing with legendary musicians," Myshel said.

Butler, who offered advice to future musicians said, "Preparation is always good."

Gerald Alston, a Manhattan group member told students to "Stay focused and keep the good Lord first."\*

Eddie Cole contributed to this article.

## SEC Results

Candidates	Votes
<b>Presidential</b>	
<b>Chauncey Davis</b>	<b>850</b>
Bradley Campbell	751
<b>Vice-Presidential</b>	
Jaron Jackson	697
<b>Rodriguez Johnson</b>	<b>891</b>
<b>Miss Tennessee State Univ.</b>	
Myia Ellington	102
Tikita Lashane Johnson	17
Tolaison M. Johnson	268
Marissa Love	31
<b>Yolanda Michelle Robinson</b>	<b>560</b>
Janique Suber	68
Sumhr Swopes	226
Tamara L. Waldon	346
<b>Rep. at Large (Day)</b>	
<b>Tyreka Banks</b>	<b>911</b>
Benjamin Bowman	791
<b>Kendrick Boykin</b>	<b>1203</b>
<b>William Busch, III</b>	<b>923</b>
Oliver Clark, Jr.	573
<b>Alfred Degranfinreid, II</b>	<b>840</b>
Timothy Horne	496
Soloman McClain	772
<b>Theron Miller</b>	<b>969</b>
<b>Josef Robinson</b>	<b>1054</b>
<b>Rep. at Large (Evening)</b>	
<b>Korey Boykin</b>	<b>1217</b>
Hodari P.T. Brown	736
<b>Ricki Gibbs</b>	<b>922</b>
<b>Phillip Howard</b>	<b>856</b>
Marshall A. Latimore	678
<b>Vanrine Peets, Jr.</b>	<b>792</b>
Franklin D. Rivers, III	685
<b>Miya Rene' Robertson</b>	<b>1036</b>
Justin Searcy	771
<b>Antwan Suttle</b>	<b>817</b>
<b>Miss Senior</b>	
<b>Tionn Fambro</b>	<b>325</b>
<b>Senior Class Rep. (Day)</b>	
Melinda Dollar	133
<b>April Thomas</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Senior Class Rep. (Evening)</b>	
<b>Chasseny Lewis</b>	<b>321</b>
<b>Miss Junior</b>	
<b>NaTasha Johnson</b>	<b>148</b>
Deiadra Preyer	143
Mary Sumo	124
<b>Junior Class President</b>	
<b>Ceelia Robinson</b>	<b>404</b>
<b>Junior Class Rep. (Day)</b>	
<b>Brenda Carter</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>Junior Class Rep. (Evening)</b>	
Khrystal Yvonne Boone	202
<b>DeAndre' Washington</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>Miss Sophomore</b>	
<b>Melanie Whiting</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>Sophomore Class Rep. (Day)</b>	
<b>Gerald Onwoha</b>	<b>444</b>
<b>Sophomore Class Rep. (Evening)</b>	
<b>Shaana Worlds</b>	<b>442</b>

\*Names in Bold represent the winners.

# Students balance books and babies

By Daniel Veiga  
Campus News Writer

Elisha Reed, 20, is a junior majoring in English who juggles being a mother, attending school, and working a part-time job.

Reed begins her routine at 6:30 every morning when she wakes up her three-year-old daughter Leilani, and gets her ready for school by 8 a.m. Later, she heads to Tennessee State University where she attends classes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. After classes, she goes to her job at AMSouth Bank from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., picks up her daughter from her baby-sitter, and arrives home at 7 p.m. to have dinner and play with her child. After putting Leilani to bed at 9 p.m., Reid gets started on her schoolwork.

"I have family and church to help me out when I need them and I couldn't have made it this far without them," Reed said.

"I just take everything one day at a time."

Reed is one of many TSU students who have children. The university has child-care facilities located at the main and downtown campuses that provide care for students' children while they attend class.

The main campus center has an early-learning center that provides lunch and activities for the children, as well as provides labs for students who major in early childhood development. The child-care center downtown provides activities mainly for children whose parents attend evening classes, according to Geraldine Johnson, head of the family consumer sciences department who also runs the child-care centers.

"Both child-care centers provide suitable activities for the children, including computers in both centers," Johnson said. "The main campus center is also a licensed kindergarten program."

A significant number of TSU stu-

dents with children are female, but there are several male students who are involved in their children's lives.

"I have to take care of my son," said Juan Clark, a junior from Nashville majoring in business finance. "It is important to me to be in his life, although both his parents are still in college."

Clark said it is not easy to take care of a child while simultaneously receiving an education. He said he just has "to maintain" in order to stay grounded.

Michelle Stewart, a sophomore majoring in business administration from Nashville, said, "I handle going to work, school, and raising my child with the help of my family who help me whenever I need them."\*



## Forum

## Hey, students, there's a presidential election!

By Ali Omar  
Black College Wire

If I hear the phrase, "the problem with Black folks is . . ." one more time, I am going to scream! From my perspective, I can tell you that one problem with some Black folks is that they wait until it is too late to be informed.

I recall South Carolina's primary weekend in February.

All of the Democratic presidential candidates were in Columbia, S.C., the Friday before the Feb. 3 primary. Political activities were happening all over town. Two of the candidates — Al Sharpton and Wesley Clark — even came to the Benedict College campus to talk personally with those willing to listen.

I was surprised when more than one of my fellow students asked me, "What are all these people doing on campus?" and "Who are they?"

My mental reaction was, "Where have you been for the past year?"

I don't know about you, but for the past eight months or so, I haven't been able to pick up a newspaper or enjoy my favorite television sitcom without seeing something about the upcoming presidential election.

Politics doesn't have to be one's hobby for one to hear the latest news, but this particular event has great significance in our history.

How could anyone miss it?

I guarantee everyone, the same people who have not been aware of the latest political issues are the same ones watching the videos on BET and MTV, with no regard to the local 11 o'clock news or to CNN. It is like the joke comedian Chris Rock tells about N\*\*\*\*\*s and books.

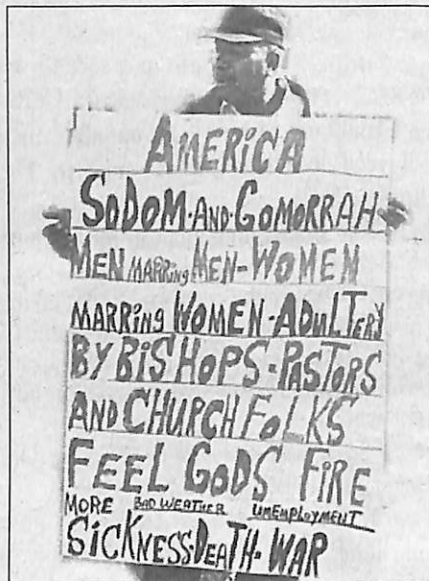


PHOTO COURTESY OF  
BLACKCOLLEGEWIRE.ORG

Activists, like this were visible during the primary season.

"N\*\*\*\*\*s hate to read!" he says. I'm beginning to wonder if it's just a joke.

Most of our parents chastised us regarding our homework: "You can't add two plus two, but I bet you can tell me all the words to the latest rap song," they said, smirking (I understand now, mom and dad).

Adults should not have to be reminded that the caliber of their next four years will be determined by what happens at the polls in November.

I don't write this to belittle the uninformed, but as a word of caution.

Those who need to read this probably won't. Can the rest of us get the word out?

Ali Omar is a student at Benedict College who is editor of *The Tiger News*.

## What We Think SEC gets two thumbs up

This year's Miss Tennessee State University pageant was by far the best in years. After starting on time (amazingly enough), the competition captivated the audience's attention with more than half of the eight contestants giving stellar and memorable performances. Creativity and imagination ruled this year's pageant with talent deviating from the norm of everyone just singing and dancing, but displayed abilities like dancing on roller skates and being a part of a drumline.

For those habitually annoyed by the pageant lasting hours with 10 minute breaks between scenes, this program flowed with a smoothness absent from most Miss America pageants. The Student Election Commission deserves a pat on the back for a successful and organized pageant and SEC week.

Each of the contestants represented beauty and poise in their own way, finally breaking the mold of attractive only fitting into a model's size.

Despite the obvious advancements of this year's pageant, one tradition that was not broken, is the blatant disregard for the pageant's most critical scene—the question and answer portion. Once the eveningwear scenes were complete, students began to leave the program as if they had been forced to evacuate the building. How is it that people expect to select an ambassador for the university if they don't know if she can speak and think on her feet? This behavior coincides with empty seats in the debate forum with only SEC members, campus media representatives and those affiliated with the candidates' Greek organiza-

tions in attendance. There was also an absence of candidates addressing real issues but where are the students looking to hear them?

The concept behind the SEC is to give the students a voice. SEC week is the chance for students to choose those most worthy to lead and handle the great responsibility of executing that voice. If no one is willing to work to take the initiative to make intelligent decisions in choosing their leaders, then all student rights should be forfeited.

Since our rights are ours and no one is going to take them, why not use them? Voting is a privilege that Blacks have fought and died for in a system that did not want them to have it. Yet, it seems as if we are not sufficiently informed about voting issues or simply do not care enough to use the privilege.

With student apathy reaching all-time highs, TSU students should jump at the chance to improve this great campus and restore it to its former glory. Not to say that all the candidates are going to bring Big Blue Country to heights never imagined, but it would be nice to see more students personally concerned with making it happen for real.

The Meter

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

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



## Letters to the Editor

# Minority student speaks out on 'racially insensitive' comments about *The Meter*

Dear Editor,

I am writing you because I want to express my opinion regarding Mr. Pearce and his inflammatory remarks. I am certain after speaking with several of my friends who are also minority students here at TSU that I am not alone in my disdain for his letters.

It seems every time Mr. Pearce writes, he writes inflammatory and prejudicial words aimed at the majority of students who are black posing as a "voice" for the minority (white) students. I have personally had enough! He does not represent me nor does he represent the minority population on this campus. One has to wonder if his opinions are his own or something he read somewhere else. Mr. Pearce does NOT represent anyone other than him-

self!

Some of us who have had classes with Mr. Pearce or had other encounters with him know what he is about and know him to be a racist and a poor student. He does not regularly attend his classes and when he does, he makes remarks in class that allow everyone in the room to know that he has no clue what he is talking about.

Last spring, Mr. Pearce wrote to *The Meter* and it published his letter that contained some very racially discriminating remarks and harmful rants. He was writing as if he were a good student and deserving of his scholarship. He isn't. How could a person maintain the gpa needed to keep a scholarship when they miss class and admittedly fail exams and quizzes?

Ever since that letter, I (and some

others I have spoken to) have noticed a profound amount of racial tension on campus. Particularly from the African-American male students towards the White male students. I blame this partly on Mr. Pearce and partly on those who would view his words as fact representing the minority students rather than one man's misguided opinion.

I am asking that you would publish this because it is important that TSU students realize that not all minority students share Mr. Pearce's views and that in fact, most of us do not.

Thank you,  
Greg Lyman

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

## Inmate challenges graduation requirement reduction

Dear Candace:

I am contemplating on joining TSU this upcoming semester as a transfer student. I was sent a copy of the school's newspaper dated 2/9/04, in which you wrote an article pertaining to the decrease in Graduation requirements. Your article was very informative, and beautifully written. However, I do hold the TBR's reasons for lowering credit hours for graduation in suspicion.

I believe that their sole purpose was not to save students money, or to get students to graduate faster (within 4 years). I believe their intentions are to limit the amount of education we get (receive), and to get us out of schools faster. The average person wants to graduate as soon as possible.

I believe we should take our time and get the most out of college as we can. Even if it means staying the whole 6 years. The

biggest problem facing a lot of people is their need to have everything quickly, and to do a lot with practically no effort. I'm quite sure you are intelligent enough to know through this. As they say "one man's loss is another's man gain."

It's True some students will gain (get out faster) but the loss (quality of education, and amount of education) will be greater.

Philip Pagel  
Adult Correctional Facility

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

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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:

- 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.



## Arts &amp; Entertainment

## Reality TV creates the 'Sista With an Attitude'

By Meridith M. Miller and  
Kamaria Mack

Community News Editor and  
Community News Writer

Reality TV has taken the world by storm and left a whirlwind of controversy at its heels. One phenomenon in question is the emergence of what the Feb. 25 *Washington Post* refers to as the "Sista With an Attitude," reality TV's stock character in the shape of the strong-willed, argumentative and aggressive Black woman.

From MTV to UPN, the "Sista With an Attitude" can be seen on a variety of reality TV series speaking her mind and taking no prisoners. This *Conversation Piece* will explore whether the "Sista With an Attitude" is a creation of talented producing and editing, or a real life feisty femme.

**MM:** A man once told me that his greatest fear is an angry Black woman. I always wondered why, but after watching some of this season's reality TV shows, I can almost understand his point.

**KM:** I think his fear is more relative to the everyday behavior of Black women rather than the behavior portrayed on reality TV. It seems as though producers have created characters based on their stereotypical understanding of Black women.

**MM:** Each time I turn on the television, I ask myself if the images of the Black women we see are in fact accurate presentations or false images created to perpetuate the idea that all Black women possess the "eye-rolling," "neck-swinging" attitude. What I do know is that the Black woman is a force to be reckoned with. She is strong, opinionated, sassy and confident. I believe these qualities may, on television, and in some face-to-face encounters, come across as less than pleasant.

**KM:** Yes, Black women do possess a strong-willed spirit that can be beneficial in reality, but with regards to televi-

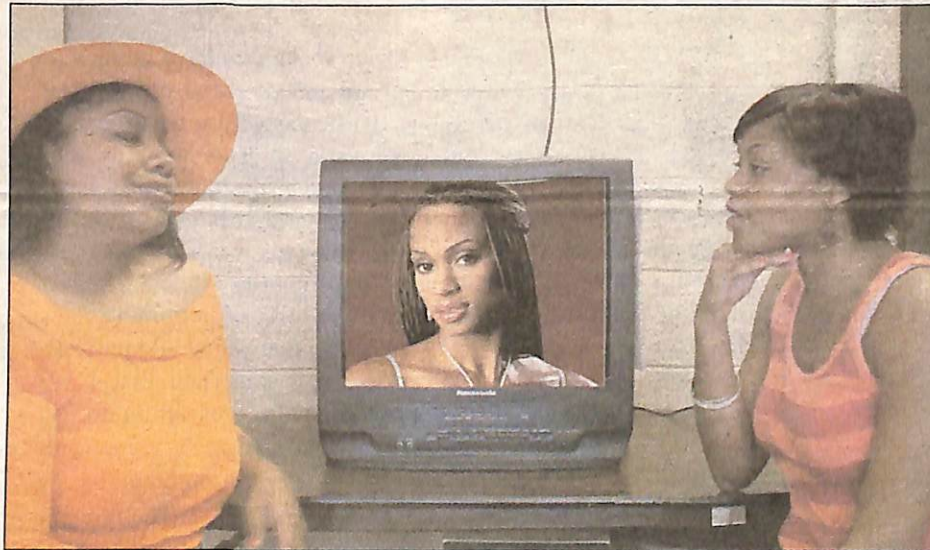


PHOTO BY JAMARRAN E'MIL MOSS

Meridith Miller and Kamaria Mack converse about Camille of *America's Next Top Model*.

sion shows, this strong-will serves as an easy target for producers to manipulate for entertainment value.

**MM:** Ah yes, entertainment exploitation at its best. But in the defense of the media, they don't use scripts in reality TV, and they can't air clips that

don't take place. What we see of Black women in reality TV are the actions they choose to do and the words they chose to say. For example, Coral, who made her debut on MTV's *The Real World 10*, is back as a fiery participant in *The Real World/ Road Rules Inferno*. She always has more than a mouthful to say, and she takes slack from no one. Her attitude has caused a fair share of friction among her teammates, and she makes no apologies. MTV didn't create her personality, and I wouldn't want to give them credit. Coral keeps it real.

**KM:** I agree that in reality TV what you see is what you get, but producers use this concept to their advantage. I think it's safe to say they purposely choose people with strong personalities that will lead to conflict, and Black women often seem to fit the bill.

**MM:** Part of the reason Black women display such confrontational personalities on TV is because of the coun-

terparts they are forced to interact with. Take a Black woman like Omarosa Manigault of *The Apprentice*, who even Donald Trump hails as "very smart" and "very beautiful" and surround her with a crew of insecure and sensitive women, and what do you expect? What non-Black viewers at home don't realize is that for many years Black women have had no choice but to be strong and aggressive. We support our communities, stand by our men, and raise our children through being what society deems as two disadvantages, being Black and being a woman.

**KM:** It's perfectly acceptable to say you are more intelligent and strong-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MTV.COM

Controversial character, Coral, shows her attitude on *The Real World/ Road Rules Inferno*.

willed than your competition, but when your actions don't match what you say, you are setting yourself up for embarrassment. This is where Omarosa makes her mistake.

**MM:** Yeah, she was a disappointment because she slipped up too many times. Another popular "Sista With an Attitude" is Camille of *America's Next Top Model*. While she did possess a less than rosy disposition, her attitude wasn't much different from some of the other participants, yet she caught the most hell for it. That is what concerns me.

**KM:** True. Camille wasn't the only participant who rolled her eyes, made snide remarks, or thought she knew everything under the sun, but for whatever reason, only Camille was shown as mean-spirited, while the rest of the participants were shown as offended victims.

**MM:** Of course, someone has to play the big bad wolf. But honestly, I just wish society could look past what they view as "attitude" and see what we view as confidence.

**KM:** I agree. If society could look past the negative persona, then they would have a better understanding and appreciation of who Black women are and what we represent.

**MM:** I can't change the beliefs of the masses who sit at home and form opinions and stereotypes based on what they view on TV, but I can encourage all Black women to stay true to themselves and maintain their poise, confidence, courage and purpose. We should all strive to serve as positive examples so that one day society can stop watching television's false reality, and start watching the real women they see every day.

Conversation  
Piece  
Dialogue exploring the  
entertainment world



Arts & Entertainment



PHOTO COURTESY OF KILLBILL.MOVIES.GO.COM

Uma Thurman plays "The Bride" in Kill Bill Vol. 2.

**Kill Bill Vol. 2 – B-**

To provide the closing chapter of his first movie in six years, world-renowned independent film director Quentin Tarantino lessens the expected and anticipated violence to elevate the film's story.

*Kill Bill Vol. 2* picks up where the first volume of the film left off. "The Bride" (Uma Thurman) is still on the hunt for her former comrades and employer who made an all-out attempt to kill her just four years earlier. "The Bride" is driven by the need to avenge the loss of her entire wedding party, husband and unborn child at the hands of the people she believed to be her friends.

The attacks that set the film in motion are almost legendary as the film begins. As "The Bride" is preparing to get married, a group of the deadliest assassins in the world come into the

chapel and shoot everyone inside. They promptly beat her to a pulp as her employer and former lover, Bill, shoots her in the head.

The shot obviously doesn't kill her, but it does allow her to vow absolute revenge on the horrible people who did this to her.

The film starts as "The Bride" has had an opportunity to knock a couple of people off of her list of Deadly Viper Assassination Squad members she aims to kill. The rest of her targets and the employer who started it all, are her focus as she continues her grueling journey.

This film takes a slightly different approach to the story than the first film. Though the over-the-top violence of *Kill*

*Bill Vol. 1* made the film interesting to watch, the dialogue and moods set on screen make this film as interesting if not as entertaining as the first.

This film uses the non-linear storyline, made famous by *Vol. 1*, to tell more about "The Bride's" past. The viewer finally gets the long awaited opportunity to understand the roots of the story. The non-linear story line is also used to do more than flashback for the sake of the viewer. "The Bride" uses this tool to save herself in the film.

Great cinematography is still just as strong in this film as it was in the last and this allows for a bit more interaction with the locations. The desert and Chinese monastery almost take on lives of their

own in the scenes in which they are used. One standout shot takes place in one of the most gruesome buried alive scenes caught on film.

*Vol. 2* is nowhere near the exploding action fest of the first film, but the action is still nothing short of amazing. The fights are brilliantly choreographed and as violent as ever, when they do occur. The story and interaction between the characters make up the bulk of this film. Taking time to watch and understand the first film makes this one appealing because the outcome is a total understanding of the story. After all, *Kill Bill* is one film.

Less violence may annoy some viewers because of the first film, but the story is still there and the characters are still as engaging.

Thurman is as captivating in the film as she was in the first. She is a determined woman that has a job to do but gets a welcomed and extremely pleasant surprise that alters the entire movie's tone when it appears. David Carridine provides one of his slickest performances ever as the charming yet despicable Bill. Michael Madsen and Daryl Hannah also deliver strong and comedic performances.

Bottom Line: The film is a testament to good filmmaking and storytelling even if it skimps on the action in the name of a good story.

**Gregory Brand**

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## Arts & Entertainment

# Kanye West gives crowd his all, has fun

By Danielle Scruggs  
Black College Wire

Neither radio nor television does justice to one of today's most prolific rappers/producers. To truly enjoy the Kanye West experience, one has to see him live.

Hundreds of students at the University of Maryland at College Park had their chance soon after his debut album, *The College Dropout*, was released.

West and his opening acts deserved a better venue, since the acoustics in the Grand Ballroom left much to be desired. However, West overcame these technical difficulties and poured his heart and soul onto the stage for adoring fans.

Backed by a DJ and by Don Crawley Jr., an enchanting piano player in his own right, the Chicago native demonstrated why *The College Dropout* is such a success and why artists as diverse as Jay-Z, Mos Def and Alicia Keys flock to him for soulful beats and rhythms.

An hour and a half after the scheduled 7:30 p.m. start, West jumped onto the stage, wearing a backpack over a blue polo shirt and jeans. He launched into *Spaceship*, a soulful lament about the harsh realities West faced trying to make it in the music industry. He was joined by Consequence and GLC, both of whom appeared on West's album.

Next came *The New Workout Plan*, a song that could easily be considered offensive to women, with lyrics such as *Give head/stop, breathe/check your weave*. But somehow West's sense of humor and his willingness to laugh at himself made the song that much more

enjoyable. He also performed his major hits *Through the Wire* and *Slow Jamz*, both of which gave piano player Legend a chance to shine and show off his beautiful soaring voice.

The highlight of the night was *Jesus Walks*, a passionate ode to his spiritual side. It is refreshing to see a hip-hop figure unabashedly confront issues that affect the common man, such as religion and spirituality.

With his eyes closed tight, beads of sweat accumulating on his smooth, dark face and lyrics flowing out of his mouth a mile a minute, it was evident that the song was close to his heart: *I ain't here to argue about his facial features or to convert atheists into believers/ I'm just trying to say the way school need teachers/ the way Kathie Lee needed Regis/ That's the way I need Jesus/ so here go my single/ radio needs this/ they say I could rap about anything except Jesus . . .*

West was treated to rousing applause and thanked the crowd for being so receptive to *Jesus Walks*. "I want to be the first good rapper on God's side," he declared after his performance.

In addition to performing songs from *College Dropout*, West also freestyle over the beats he created for Jay-Z (*Encore* and *Lucifer*), Talib Kweli (*Get By*) and Keys (*You Don't Know My Name*). The last freestyle was a hilarious takeoff on the song he dubbed *I Still Don't Know Your Name*, an ode to groupies and the pleasures they give musicians. Hearing West trying to sing was hysterical and demonstrated once more how unafraid he was to poke fun at himself, something sorely missing in hip-hop today.

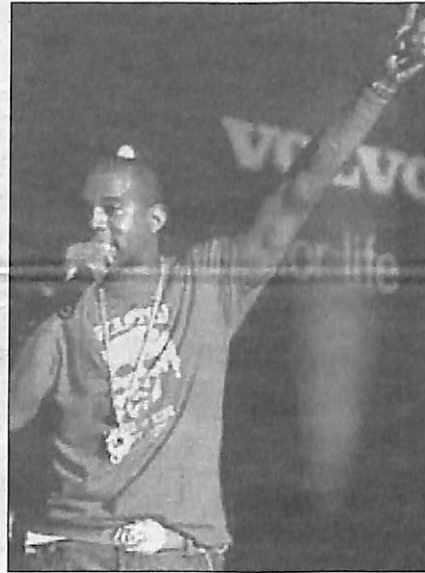


PHOTO COURTESY OF  
BLACKCOLLEGEWIRE.ORG

### Kanye West performs at College Park.

West ended with *School Spirit*, a soulful tribute to sororities and fraternities. The crowd, not wanting to see him leave, chanted "Kanye!" after he stepped off the stage.

It was as though he squeezed a three-hour show into an hour and a half. Even though West had to battle bad acoustics and a venue that was beneath a man of his talents, he gave the crowd his all. Most important, he seemed as if he was having fun, another element that has been lacking in hip-hop.

If West keeps giving high-energy, magnetic performances like this show at College Park, he has nowhere to go but up.

Danielle Scruggs, a student at Howard University, writes for *The Hilltop*.

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## Arts & Entertainment

# Dr. J-Dub prescribes perfect prescription for service and success

## Bout to Blow

By **Tamika L. Jefferson**  
Sports Editor

Tennessee State University junior Julius Williams, aka Dr. J-Dub, is making his local imprint on TSU's campus by collaborating with local talent to facilitate his entertainment company.

Williams said he was inspired by Phat Farm CEO Russell Simmons' Nov. 12, 2003 visit, when the Def Jam Records co-founder encouraged artists to "get your stuff played on the college radio."

Williams, a Memphis native, founded and owns *Entrepreneiros*, a company that specializes in music production and promotions. His company is also a non-profit organization for kids to learn about entertainment, and the kids are a part of the street team.

*Entrepreneiros* and the street team are promoting a fundraising event scheduled for May 1 at the Preston Taylor Boys and Girls Club, located at 915 38th Ave. North.

"I am a man of many talents," Williams said. "My first love is to be a coach. I have to give back to the children. This radio stuff is my second hustle."

Williams, who said he maintains a 3.2 grade point average, majors in human performance and sports sciences and is the promotions director at TSU's WTST Campus Radio, cable channel 99. He is responsible for getting TSU to listen to the radio shows and thinking of ideas for shows and events, such as *Live from the Forum* with the controversy between *The Meter* and Douglas Pearce, a White student, who wrote a letter to *The Meter* concerning its lack of Euro-American news coverage. Williams also hosts *Crush Tuesdays Soft Touch* from 10 p.m.

and 12 a.m. and *Crunk Night Show* at 9 p.m. The Presidential Scholarship recipient joined the WTST Radio station his sophomore year working in the promotions department, with a *Top 9 @ 9 p.m. Crunk Night Show*.

"Julius has been a key asset in continuing our growth at WTST," operations manager Barry Gresham said. "He keeps the torch going from the originals and he has a lot of great ideas in fundraising that the TSU students seem to be really interested in."

WTST equipped Williams with the gadgets needed to produce mixed CDs of original songs and today's R&B and Rap songs, much like DJ Kay Slay. Williams released two volumes of the *Burn, Spread and Bootleg* collection: *Da Man Behind Da Plan* and *Get U Some*. The CDs can be picked up at TSU's bookstores, Platinum Bound on Jefferson Street and Soundstream on Clarksville Highway.

Williams said the *Burn, Spread and Bootleg* collections' main purpose is to feature TSU artists, such as Skripture, J-Mink, who also produces, and Juice. His first artist to be released is rapper Regula, TSU senior Darryl Lee from Chicago.

"He is hardworking and he's persistent," Lee said of Williams. "He is a business man and I respect his work ethic because I am an artist. It was easy to work with him."

The defunct Memphis Club resurfaced on TSU's campus during the 2003 fall semester with the tireless efforts of Williams and former TSU student Jonathan Tyler, who served as president and vice president, respectively. The club has 20 active members, who focus on community services and bringing the "TSU spirit" back to the campus. With *Brothers for Love Achievement Culture and Knowledge Inc.*, the Memphis Club hosted the First Annual Jefferson Street Classic, featuring TSU's intramural basketball champions, Taliban, versus Fisk's intramural basketball champions, the Bulldogs, in Kean Hall on April 15. Williams said he plans to add teams from Middle Tennessee State, Vanderbilt and Austin Peay State universities next year.

"A lot of organizations, such as the Greeks, only throw events on campus to make money off the students," Williams said. "Our club will throw events for free,



PHOTO BY TAMIKA L. JEFFERSON

**Julius Williams (right) teaches Tasha Mathis (left) how to play commercials during her radio show at WTST Campus Radio, April 20.**

just because students are broke and we need to save our money. Every organization should throw a free party in the

Women's Building and we wouldn't have to drive to the (Vanderbilt) Mansion; then the campus wouldn't be lame."

Williams said that if a man says he is "king" then everyone will believe him. He has high standards as far as business and the women companions in his life.

"I don't mess with girls whose grade point averages ain't over 3.0 and I like everything to happen on time," he said. "The key to success is to have an aura of cockiness. The difference between the people who are 'in' and who are 'not in' is initiative. Those people are the ones in talent shows making a name for themselves."

For more information on Dr. J-Dub's next mixed CD, promotional event or community service project, e-mail [jdiz-zle83@blackplanet.com](mailto:jdiz-zle83@blackplanet.com) •

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## Sports

# Recruit could follow brother's footsteps

Continued from page 1

ered the needs," TSU head football coach James Reese said. "It was not 'let's go out there and see what we get,' but it was just a matter of selling the program."



PHOTO BY SIRR THOMAS

**The Blue and White game pits starting linemen against other players on the team.**

The five junior college transfers are the only signees expected to come in and make an immediate impact. Junior college transfers are defensive linemen Ernest Jones, who was recruited by

Rutgers University, Jermaine Price and Frantzy Dorlean from Hudson Valley Community College. Offensive lineman are Walter Hill from Reedley Community College in California and defensive back Nikkieda Rutland from Garden City Community College in Kansas.

TSU's 18 graduating seniors are leaving many positions to be filled, especially at receiver and in the secondary. The Tigers signed seven receivers this year to replace holes left by C.J. Johnson, Carlos Wright, Ande Durojaiye and Ronald Jackson. Johnson finished last season with 57 receptions and 1,106 yards, Wright finished with 1,136 all-purpose yards, and Jackson finished sixth in the OVC with 55 receiving yards per game. TSU also signed 13 defensive backs to restore the absence of Kevin Anderson, Deon Giddens, Scott Cunningham and Ahmed Safeullah, who together intercepted 10 passes last season.

"Seeing that I know the positions that need to be filled, there are some good players recruited," junior defensive end and last season's OVC sack leader Paul Thomas said. "The junior college players will definitely help and come in



PHOTO COURTESY OF HILLSBORO.COM

**Calvin Bryant, a running back recruit from Hillsboro High School in Nashville, is scheduled to join the Tigers in the fall.**

and contribute. The recruiting will not just help next year, but for years to come."

One particular recruit, Chris Johnson, has Big Blue in his family bloodline. He is the younger brother of TSU's all-time leading receiver C. J. Johnson.

Besides playing receiver in high school, Chris also averaged 18 points per game in basketball for Nashville's

Glenciff High School. He said he chose to play football because Reese emphasized academics first and football is "more fun" than basketball.

"It's too much running in basketball," Chris said. "In football you get to hit people and you get a little more glory."

Reese said, "(Chris is) taller than C.J. It's a tall order to compare him to TSU's all-time leading receiver. C.J. was forced into playing right away and worked hard all summer and never looked back. Hopefully, Chris can do the same thing."

Several Division I-A schools also had eyes on some of TSU's new signees. Utah State recruited Javarris Williams, Syracuse and Arizona recruited Brandon Belvin and Buffalo recruited John Tillman.

"I think that it is a positive thing," said Nicole Morgan, a sophomore from Jersey City, N.J., majoring in biology/pre-med. "Maybe we can win some more games."

The 2004-05 Tigers' first game is scheduled for Sept. 4, at the Sixth Annual John A. Merritt Classic against the Alabama A&M University Bulldogs.

## Tennessee State University 2004 football signees

Profiles list each recruit's name, position, height, weight and hometown.

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1. K.J. Austin-Bruce - RB, 5'11, 215 lbs - Louisville, Ky. | 9. Chris Johnson - WR, 6'2, 180 lbs- Nashville        | 19. Tavares Edwards - DB, 6'0, 170 lbs- Huntsville, Ala.  | 29. Marcus Rayford - OL, 6'5, 320 lbs- Nashville         |
| 2. Calvin Bryant - RB, 5'11, 250 lbs - Nashville           | 10. Corey Waller - WR, 6'1, 170 lbs - Nashville       | 20. Riley Howard - DB, 5'11, 175 lbs- Nashville           | 30. Miquel Hall - LB, 6'3, 225lbs - Detroit, Mich.       |
| 3. Marcellus Tibbs - RB, 6'1, 180 lbs - Nashville          | 11. Clintez Webb - DB/WR, 5'10, 180 lbs- Decatur, Ga. | 21. Jon Hicks - DB, 6'3, 200 lbs- Deerfield Beach, Fla.   | 31. Montez Peoples - LB, 6'3, 235 lbs- Nashville         |
| 4. Javarris Williams - RB, 5'11, 215 lbs - Richmond, Texas | 12. Jerald Cook - QB, 6'2, 200 lbs- Birmingham, Ala.  | 22. Nikkieda Rutland - DB, 5'11, 190 lbs- Bradenton, Fla. | 32. Earl Thomas - LB, 6'1, 215 lbs, Sugarland, Texas     |
| 5. Crosby Baptiste - WR, 6'3, 190 lbs - Tampa, Fla.        | 13. John Tillman - QB, 6'3, 200 lbs- Paterson, N.J.   | 23. Chris Spears - DB, 6'0, 180 lbs- Arlington, Texas     | 33. Ernest Jones - DL, 6'2, 310 lbs- Bronx, N.Y.         |
| 6. Brandon Belvin - WR, 6'3, 200 lbs - Arlington, Texas    | 14. Denard Cox - DB, 5'10, 180 lbs- Ennis, Texas      | 24. Reno Thompson - DB, 6'0, 190 lbs- Nashville           | 34. Jermaine Price - DL, 6'4, 250 lbs- Trenton, N.J.     |
| 7. Jeremy Gettis - WR, 6'3, 185 lbs - Nashville            | 15. Antonio Cunningham - DB, 5'10, 185 lbs- Nashville | 25. Dominique Rodgers - DB, 6'2, 170 lbs- Bradenton, Fla. | 35. Ricky Williams - DL, 6'1, 240 lbs- Antioch           |
| 8. Antonio Graham - WR, 6'3, 190 lbs - Tampa, Fla.         | 16. Theron Blair - DB, 5'9, 180 lbs- Nashville        | 26. Shawn Walden - DB, 6'2, 180 lbs- Hialeah, Fla.        | 36. Jeremy Woods - DL, 6'3, 235 lbs- Antioch             |
|  | 17. Kevin Bledsoe - DB, 5'10, 180 lbs- Nashville      | 27. Anthony Davis - OL, 6'4, 315 lbs- Valrico, Fla.       | 37. Frantzy Dorlean - DL, 6'4, 260 - Spring Valley, N.Y. |
|  | 18. Brad Doss - DB, 6'0, 175 lbs- Nashville           | 28. Walter Hill - OL, 6'5, 320 lbs- Texarkana, Ark.       |  |



## Sports

# Jontz is about business on, off diamond

By Sheena Hamilton  
Sports Writer

Wearing the Tennessee State University Lady Tiger number seven across her chest, already with two shutouts this season, sophomore Justine Jontz, a business major from Hendersonville, Tenn., is on top of her game.

Jontz pitched the complete game and finished with five strike outs against the Eagles of Tennessee Tech April 17. She also pitched five and a third shutout innings for a 1-0 victory over Middle Tennessee State March 9 and another 1-0 shutout against Austin Peay State April 9, including six strikeouts.

Although the Lady Tiger softball team record is 3-10 in the Ohio Valley Conference and 14-30 overall, TSU is improving from last season's 9-33 overall record and a 5-16 conference record. The Lady Tigers have eight regular sea-



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

## Justine Jontz

Jontz leads the team with a 42.9 winning percentage; the next closest pitcher is Tarah Evanisko with 28.6 percent. She ranks second in the OVC in saves with two for the season and has pitched over 82 innings for TSU already this season. Jontz struck out 56 batters this year with only 21 appearances at the plate.

"I have been playing softball since I was six years old," Jontz said. "I am excited to be playing at the college level, it is more competitive, so I have to be a lot more competitive."

son conference games remaining.

"I know that the softball team just like the rest of the Tiger teams is on its way," said Jamaya Simmons, a junior from Houston majoring in biology/premed.

Jontz leads the team with a 42.9 winning percentage; the next

She makes a 30-minute commute from her hometown to campus every morning. After attending class for the majority of the day, Jontz heads out to the field for practice. When practice is over, she studies. Four nights a week Jontz can be seen in the TSU library hitting the books. She said she dedicates eight hours a week to study hall aside from her personal time.

After her scholastic endeavors, she makes time to eat dinner and heads home around 10 p.m. or 11 p.m.

Jontz tries to spend time with her teammates whenever she gets a chance, but enjoys most spending time with her biggest fans, her two "beautiful" little nieces.

"I grew up playing against Justine," freshman teammate Laura Freeman said. "She has always been a tough competitor, and she is maturing as far as the

game of softball goes and I believe she is going to have a great career here."

Upon graduation from TSU she plans to take over her father's business as a financial planner, giving entrepreneurship back to her community. Even though she doesn't have a lot of time, she tries to give back by coaching her nieces and other children at various softball clinics in Hendersonville.

She said she wants to be remembered by TSU for her dedication and hard work as far as the game of softball and for her interest in learning as much as she possibly can while here at TSU.

"Remember to study and start off on the right foot because you have four years to party and meet new people along the way," she said.

Sports  
Spotlight

# Golf team is comprised of all Whites

Continued from page 1

percent of nationwide college golf scholarships have been awarded to PING readers, including young PGA and LPGA Tour players Tiger Woods and Emilee Klein.

As the only historically Black college or university in an otherwise all-white conference, TSU has an all-white team this season. The inaugural men's golf team, however, was all Black and consisted of two injured football players, two other men and a woman.

"I really wish people would stop playing the race card," she said. "I want to be competitive and not just say 'I was a coach of a team.'"

According to golfstat.com, TSU is ranked 123rd in the country out of 325 Division I golf teams, but TSU has never hosted a tournament. The team won the local 2004 Belmont Invitational at the Legends Club of Tennessee on April 6. The Tigers shot a final round score of 280 and finished with a tournament record 851.

She said the golf team doesn't have a predetermined schedule, unlike softball, football and soccer. It has to be invited to participate in tournaments.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGER.COM

## Robert Dinwiddie leads the OVC in stroke average.

"I have everything on paper that is needed to host a tournament here," Starks said. "If I was able to host a tournament here, then I can invite other teams and that will get us into the bigger tournaments."

Nyre Williams, a former TSU golf player and director of the First Tee Foundation of Nashville, said, "I really don't think Black families know what it takes to prepare their child for a career in golf. We did the ground work for what

the team is doing now. We were the TSU golf forefathers."

The First Tee Foundation is "a World Golf Foundation initiative dedicated to providing young people of all backgrounds an opportunity to develop, through golf and character education, life-enhancing values such as honesty, integrity and sportsmanship," according to its press material.

Roughly 10 percent, or 2.4 million of today's golfers, represent racial minorities, including Blacks and Native

there. The parents must make the initial step to help kids learn the skill for this level; (college) is not the time to learn."

Junior Robert Dinwiddie, a native of Barnard Castle, England, ranks 39th out of 250 potentials in the Golfstat Cup standings. He captured medalist honors for the second time this spring in a tournament at Belmont University. Dinwiddie was named OVC Golfer of the Week twice this spring. He was named both OVC and Golfweek National Player of the Week for his play in the

*"I really wish people would stop playing the race card. I want to be competitive and not just say 'I was a coach of a team.'"*

*-Catana Starks, men's golf head coach*

Americans, according to the National Golf Foundation. An estimated 882,000 are Blacks and some 851,000 are Asian/Pacific Islanders. The remaining 712,000 are self-identified by survey respondents as "other," which includes Native Americans and mixed races.

"I am so happy to have one of my own to come back and start something," Starks said of Williams. "It can't stop

Samford Invitational Tournament. Dinwiddie leads the OVC with a 70.9 stroke average.

"I feel like the golf team is doing an excellent job," said Tyreka Banks, a junior from Memphis majoring in speech communication and theatre. "They represent TSU well."\*



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