



Check out the review of Fabolous' new album.

Page 8



Read about the hip-hop theatre performance that is breaking new ground.

Page 9



See which former Tiger is scoring in professional basketball.

Page 11

TSU Football

TSU 13

Murray State 30

Champ wants to *Reload* TSU football

Former coach wants another shot at OVC title

By Eddie R. Cole Jr.
Sports Editor

After five years away from the Tennessee State University football program, former head football coach L.C. Cole wants his previous position back.

Cole was TSU's head coach during the 1996-99 seasons. Under his leadership the Tigers won two consecutive Ohio Valley Conference championships.

"Everybody knows I am the perfect person for that program," Cole said to *The Meter* Saturday night during a telephone interview from Chicago. "I took it from the bottom to the top."

Currently, Cole is the defensive coordi-

nator, assistant head coach at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minn. The Concordia Golden Bears finished the 2004 season 7-4.

Cole left TSU to coach at Alabama State University after ASU "sold (him) the false dream" of moving from Division I-AA to Division I-A.

According to Cole, every coach has dreams of coaching on the highest collegiate level.

During his tenure, Cole coached All-American Avion Black a fifth-round National Football League draft pick; Tyrone Butterfield, TSU's single game receiving yardage recorder holder; and Leon Murray, All-American Heisman trophy candidate.

See "Reese" on page 10

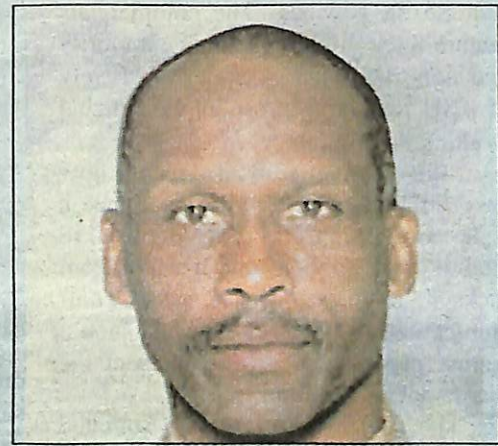


PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Former TSU Head Coach L.C. Cole

Diversity commercials meet student disapproval

By Kamaria Mack
News Editor

Some students feel that the advertising campaign produced to attract more minority and non-traditional students, does not accurately reflect Tennessee State University's racial demographics.

TSU hired McNeely Pigott and Fox Public Relations, LLC under the Geier consent decree, as a part of their stipulation to attract more white and older students.

"The main argument is that TSU wants equal representation of the student body, staff, and administration in terms of ethnicity and race," said Tor Anjanaku, a junior from Knoxville, Tenn. majoring in african studies. "The representation is

See "Students:" on page 2

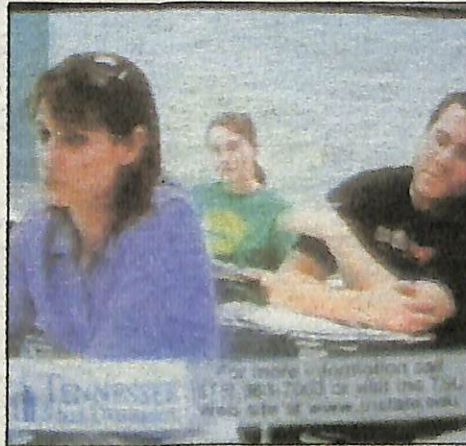


PHOTO-CAPTURE BY BRIAN BROWLEY

A scene taken from one of the three controversial commercials

Committee Reps. unimpressed by candidates

By Brian C. Browley
Campus News Writer

Student representatives on the presidential search committee, Chauncey Davis and William Bush III, did not vote on any candidates during second meeting.

During the second presidential search meeting that was held on Nov. 11, the search committee narrowed the list of candidates from 47 to 14.

"I did not vote on anyone at the meeting because I know that President Hefner is eminently qualified," said Chauncey Davis, SGA president. "None of them have credentials that surpass or equal President Hefner's."

The presidential search advisory committee is responsible for screening and interviewing

See "Applicants" on page 3

Campus News

Students: Advertising demographics are inaccurate

Continued from page 1

not equal because no Blacks are speaking, therefore it does not represent TSU demographics."

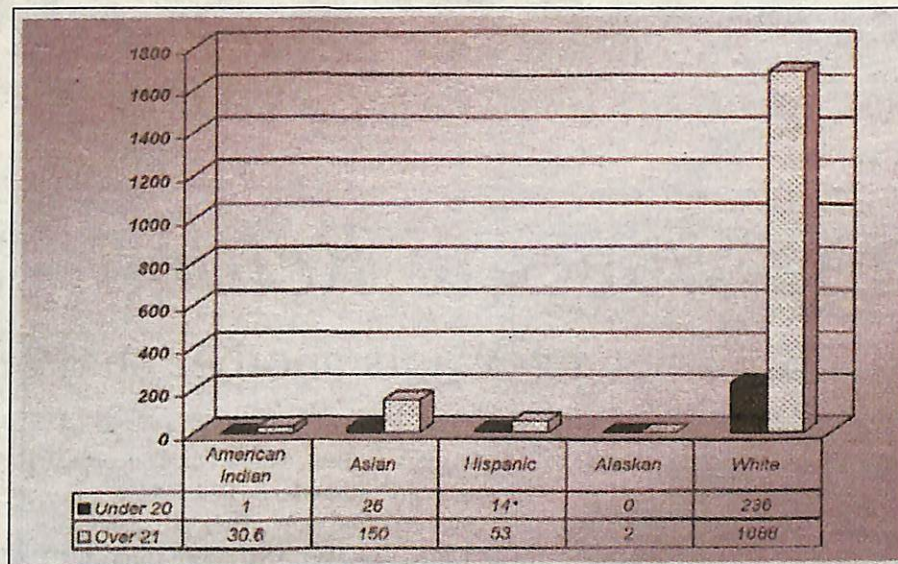
TSU has 277 non-traditional students who are not black which are under the age of 21, while there 4855 non-traditional students who are not black that are over the age of 21.

The firm produced three different 30 second commercials, which started airing on Nov. 1 and are expected to stop runtime on Nov. 24. The commercials feature three different students, minority and non-traditional, speaking positively of TSU and are shown in their actual working environments.

"Prospective students who know very little about TSU will experience a rude awakening if they choose to attend," said Amber Sims, a senior from Jackson, Tenn. majoring in speech communication and theatre. "The ads should feature classes that better represent the true racial background.

The students chosen were solicited through focus groups conducted by the public relations firm which were designed to get an understanding of the perception of TSU. Information learned through the focus groups was used to write the scripts for each commercial.

The commercials run during prime-time on stations WTVF, WSMV and WKRN, which are not typical of the average TSU student. The average TSU



GRAPHIC DESIGNED BY ASHLEY NORTINGTON

This graph shows the diversity of the university's minority student body

student is an 18 year-old high school student.

"We have been told under court order to attract non-traditional students," said Mike Pigott of McNeely, Pigott, and Fox. "The purpose was to convey that TSU is a viable option (for white and older students).

Pigott's interest in TSU has prompted 6 year service on TSU's foundation board which ended on June 6; he now volunteers as an exofficio member without voting rights.

A section of the Geier consent decree, a court settlement of a lawsuit

regarding the racial makeup of TSU, mandated that the campaign "must convey the image of TSU as a racially diverse institution dedicated to educational excellence and service to all segments of middle Tennessee's population and its commitment to welcoming other race students".

The project cost was \$650,000 and has been allotted for a two year contract with Pigott's firm.

"I believe that the mission was carried out, but without the consideration of the current events here at Tennessee State University," Lela Carbin, a senior

from Huntsville, Al who is majoring in speech communications said.

Ray Richardson, the plaintiff-intervenor for the Geier settlement disagrees with the general student opinion and he feels that those members of the public relations firm are TSU's friends, not enemies.

"We hope to increase our enrollment and we want to raise the quality of our enrollment," Richardson said.

Initially the decree mandated that TSU become 50 percent Black and 50 percent white, later it changed to 90 percent Black and 10 percent white. Currently, TSU has no quota to reach regarding minority or non-traditional students, but must increase their enrollment.

Some students are concerned with the message that traditional students may be receiving. The community has responded by placing an influx of phone calls to the downtown campus.

"I have received a great response from non-traditional students, said Della Henry, the secretary for the extended Dr. Nettles, the director of the Avon Williams campus

"As a nontraditional student, I think that the commercials are very effective," Sarah Bogan, a speech communications and theatre major from Nashville, Tn said. "Yes, I understand the opportunity here at TSU but I don't think that others are aware.

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Corrections

•Cuttin-it- Close Barber and Beauty Shop is located in east Nashville.

The Meter regrets errors and continuously strives to improve.

Campus News

Applicants primarily from vice-presidential positions

Continued from page 1

candidates to reduce the pool.

The majority of the candidates applying for the position are currently employed in vice presidential positions at their respective universities. Regent /committee member Buddy Bowers and Chancellor Charles Manning addressed issues that salary constraints have limited the pool of candidates.

"That's why (salary constraints) so many applicants come from vice president positions," Manning said.

Out of the 14, only one, Algeania W. Freeman of Livingston College is a sitting president. The opening of the Nov. 11 meeting was marked from the beginning with pro-Hefner statements by both students and alumni alike.

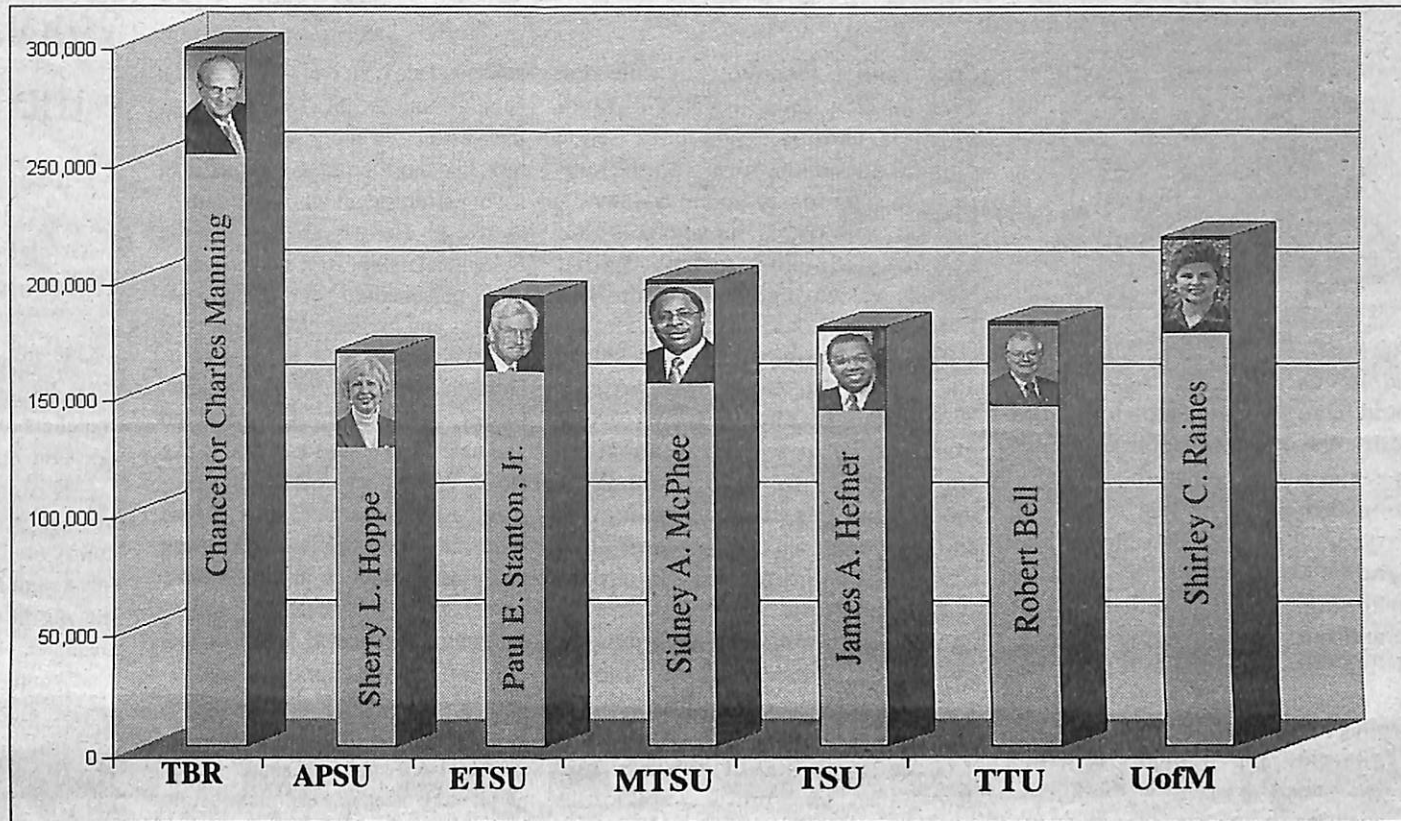
"President Hefner is truly our champion," said student government association representative at large Josef Robinson. "We are declaring that the student body does not want to change leadership."

Newly crowned Mr. TSU, Antwan Suttle echoed those statements and spoke on the qualifications of the other candidates in comparison to Hefner.

"We already have someone who is best suited for the position," Suttle said.

The meeting hit several roadblocks, in particular the finality of the selections and eliminations the committee made.

"I'm not comfortable with what our decision matrix is," said Charles Taylor,



GRAPHIC DESIGNED BY BRIAN C. BROWLEY AND GREGORY BRAND

The graph represents the salaries of the six TBR institution presidents and Chancellor Charles Manning. Sherry L. Hoppe, Paul E. Stanton, Jr., Sidney A. McPhee, James A. Hefner, Robert Bell, Shirley C. Raines.

the vice president and managing director of the Hollings Group, the search firm that is assisting in the search for qualified candidates. "It seems to me that if we have 17 different versions about what the

qualifications of TSU's next president are, we'll end up with apples and oranges,... if we don't have some commonality."

Manning who was present for the

meeting made statements regarding the elimination of certain candidates who seemed to be qualified for the position.

"There are some people here who have pretty good credentials, and they have been eliminated," said Manning.

A number of the candidates had prior employment or relationships with TSU or other TBR institutions.

Both Handy Williamson, Jr. and Ernest J. Moore are TSU graduates. Evelyn White was previously employed by TSU as the Associate Dean of Education. Gloria Bonner currently serves as Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science at Middle Tennessee State University and received her doctorate degree from TSU.

Joseph Martin Stevenson is a former TBR employee and Nashville native. Victor Ukpole has been employed by the TBR and also at Austin Peay State University as a professor.

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Forum

SGA loses focus



Matthew L. Evans
Political Columnist

The Tennessee State University Student Government Association should have students at the top of the priority list. It seems apparent to me that some officials within the SGA administration have lost focus of their general purpose as stated in the preamble of the TSU SGA Constitution, "to represent the welfare and interest of the student body and the university." While I do believe that the SGA recent actions of trying to "Save President Hefner" are admirable, I do not believe that it is in the best interest of the students here at TSU. As the unofficial motto of TSU states, "Students Matter Most," the SGA should take heed to this immediately.

With over 9,000 students attending this prestigious university, the

SGA cannot accurately assume that every student on campus is in favor of their actions, especially when only 50 attended a forum on the subject. To frivolously spend \$800 dollars on buttons; is inexcusable and unwarranted. The reality is that Hefner was wrong, he even admitted it. In a Dec. 2, 2003 affidavit Hefner stated, "In retrospect, it was stupid and I regret it and it was wrong." That should be enough for everyone involved; he owned up to unethical and careless acts, and it should a moot point. If a criminal apologizes and admits he was wrong after he is convicted of a crime, does the justice system overturn the conviction? I don't think so. Every action has a reaction and President Hefner should suffer the consequences of his actions and move on.

Tennessee State University students, past and present make the school what it is. While I believe the SGA and its leadership's may truly believe they are doing the right thing, they have made a huge error in judgment. There are many problems

students face on a daily basis on this campus, and the SGA should focus their efforts on more pertinent matters, like those problems, rather than saving a president who is admittedly wrong. Here is an idea for the SGA leadership: try and become more personable to the students on campus and interact with students so you will know where the real problems lie. Step out of the Student Center, Madame President and go and meet with students at places like Boyd, Watson, and Wilson on a regular basis. I guarantee that if you implement a better plan by focusing on students' welfare and follow the guidelines of your preamble precisely, than students will begin to feel included in what's going at their university, rather than feeling excluded. It is called STUDENT Government Association for a reason. Think about it. It is your responsibility to effectively put students first, not your own ambitions.

matthewlevans@msn.com

What We Think Should TSU return to the 'Cole-Blooded' tradition?

"He who seizes the right moment, is the right man."

-Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

In light of Tennessee State University canning now former Head Coach James Reese and five members of his coaching staff, we feel as though the decision was fair and correctly timed.

It is understandable that the football team has endured several injuries this season that have all contributed tremendously to Tiger losses. To sustain these significant injuries, coaches have teammates playing in different positions in addition to giving freshmen playing time, but have still failed.

Another contributor to Tiger losses is inconsistency. Does the fault lie primarily with Head Football Coach James Reese, or does it lie with his players? Under Reese, in odd years, the team typically has a winning season, but during even numbered years, the team loses. Just like the football saying goes, "Players win games and coaches lose them." So, the fault of the team's dismal performance lies on Reese. Even if the blame is placed on the players, Reese is the person who recruited them to TSU.

In the past TSU had a winning tradition. A tradition that many can hope to one day equal. Now one of TSU's former coaching heroes wishes to restore our once great football glory. That hero is L.C. Cole.

Cole, winner of two consecutive Ohio Valley Conference titles, was named American Football Coach's Coach of the year, Street and Smith's Eddie Robinson Coach of the year and Teamlink.com's Division I-AA Coach of the year.

Also a big fan of TSU tradition, Cole, prefers playing in 'the Hole' and believes it would increase school spirit.

Though Reese had a track record of recruiting all-star players, it seemed as if he was great at attracting talent but lacked in developing it. Under his leadership he has recruited All-American C.J. Johnson, TSU's all-time leader in receiving yardage, All-American Charles Anthony, TSU's all-time rushing leader, and All-OVC defensive end Paul Thomas. Maybe he should have stuck to recruiting instead of coaching.

Joe Biddle, columnist for *The Tennessean* said that Reese's record was not one that TSU fans are accustomed and he thinks "it needs to be examined at whether he should be coach."

As a result, TSU administration ran the "boot-leg" on Reese and kicked him off the sidelines.

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Letter to the Editor

Graduate student welcomes change

As I continue to look at Tennessee State University's future and continue my education here, I can see big things coming from *The Meter*. Being a person that grew up on TSU tradition it is hard for me to get adjusted to the changes that this university has gone through over the years and is going through right now. But, I feel like these change are going to be good not only for the students of TSU, TSU community. The reason being is that with each pass-

ing of the time comes change and change is good. I understand why some students do not want Dr. James A. Hefner to leave but if he wants to step down, then let him step down. I do not understand why this rally to save Dr. James A. Hefner is going on, but it does bring a smile to my face because it is showing the TBR(Tennessee Board of Regents)that we still have some "TIGER PRIDE" and is not going to back down to anything that is thrown or

put in our way!

In closing I say this, with this change that is coming, TSU can not only get bigger and really be put on the map, but become one of the major HBCU'S in the country. Then TSU can be put in the same class as FAMU and other major colleges and universities across the country.

Malcom Thorton

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.

Minority student confronts offensive letter

I am a student here at Tennessee State University. I am a minority student that does not receive a minority scholarship, in essence I chose to be here. My comment to all students here at T.S.U. is what is all the uproar about. If President Hefner want to withdraw his retirement then he, himself could do so. The Student Government Association is trying to stop the retirement on the grounds that this will not be a Historically Black University if a white woman or a Chinese man takes over as president. I have on question for all students of all races at Tennessee State.

What makes Tennessee State a historically Black college and University???? The answer is this the history of Tennessee State not the people who run the school, not the students attending the school. Yes we are a part of history but so far this semester I have heard and seen things at this school that's actually hurting the history of this University. We have had a Greek vs Non Greek, The so-called ignorance of an editor in chief, the blatant disregard

for the minority students. I have not ever been in a situation to be so blatantly disregarded as a human being because of my race. Phillip Howard I have a question for you what does the student government do for the white student. **Nothing! I have a challenge for you sir Tell me how many white students are involved with the student government or other school organization that is not set up for them specifically. How have you yourself reached out to the white student that did not benefit you in the long run.**

I chose Tennessee State for two reasons one is that they have an incredible Nursing program that will challenge me as a person and a student. Two I know that in order to succeed in this world we must be able to get along and challenge ourselves to be as diverse as the world is around us. To be honest with you I do not expect to see this printed in *THE METER*. Why you say because no one at this campus actually cares what the white population has to say or to offer to the history of this school. If this is the way that the African American race has

been treated I for one wish to apologize for the blatant disregard of you as a human being. We must stop the division in races for ourselves and our children. If we do not stop it now the history at this college will be in jeopardy from us the current alumni.

So in conclusion, Students, Faculty and Staff need to learn to come together as one. Weather we are fortune to keep President Hefner or if we have a different President. We don't need to look at their race we need to look at the qualifications. Are they qualified to run a University of this size and stature? If not then we need to keep looking for someone to carry on the rich traditions and the wonderful heritage that is offered here at Tennessee State University. No one can take away the fact that we are a Historically Black College and University.

**Thank you for your time
kayla Sky**

This letter was printed in the format in which it was received. It has not been edited for style or content though we reserve the right to do so.

Submission Requirements

The Meter invites submissions by all members of the Tennessee State University community. Opinions contained in submitted articles do not necessarily reflect the views of TSU faculty, students, SGA, or administration. Timeliness and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

- All contributions must be typed, double-spaced (submitted on 3.5" disks or e-mailed) by Monday, and must include the writers name and title or classification.
- Opinions and letters should not exceed 500 words.
- The Meter reserves to the right to reject letters, articles, or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

The Meter

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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.

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CIRCULATION: 3,000

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Letters to the Editor

Student addresses campus woes

Here I am again; Where did they go?

I'm finally famous and respected for working hard to bring events, artists, and good music to TSU.

I've been reading a lot of fine material printed in the Meter the last two weeks.

Clearly, some of us really think we run things. The Meter is under fire for reporting the truth about events we clearly saw with our own eyes. It's not our fault we were the only ones that chose to tell our stories 3,000 times.

There was a comment made about the editor of the Meter getting a stipend. Let's talk about the money the SGA gets to travel to the Football Classics and "kick it." That money is provided for them to represent the student body and make important decisions like spending

\$800 on buttons. There's a real government for you. The comments of a "white lady" or "Chinese man" becoming president could suggest our leadership is racist or maybe sexist. You be the judge.

The infamous Mr. TSU Pageant 2004 is one that will forever be remembered. I commend all the contestants who were brave enough to participate (one dropped out).

The school is somehow stuck on a stereotype that Mr. TSU has to be a certain way. If Mr. TSU represents us, shouldn't he be accepted by the students? I forgot we don't get to vote on that one like Mrs. TSU. For people to belittle the contestants for being themselves is totally wrong. Everyone missed the point that everyone can compete and be themselves. And besides if there was no com-

petition, I guess I would've won. The question is, will the judges ever change their routine of picking a certain "type of guy"?

I am now a political guy pushing for all the students to speak out for what is right. Everyone should be able to voice their opinion and not fear being censored by administrators. The "Who Matters Most?" campaign is for all students to voice their concerns with administrators. But I know the Student Affairs office is busy trying to bring Anthony Hamilton here for a student's concert. The SGA is trying to plan a concert with Lil John. I thought that was SUBG's job. Our beloved voices are to busy singing and rapping trying to entertain us and not respond to key issues for the students.

These last two weeks have clearly

shown the underhand and slick dealings that occur everyday at TSU. The Memphis Club is stepping up and pushing for students to be proactive and use their right of freedom of speech.

For all those that claim they were upset and offended by what they have seen as wrongdoings, speak up and sign a petition that will be coming to you! Many things occur today because the victims did not speak up. Are you next?

**Julius Williams a.k.a Dr.J
President, Memphis Club**

This letter was printed in the format in which it was received. It has not been edited for style or content though we reserve the right to do so.

Non-traditional student appreciates support

My name is Nina Collins. I am currently a Sophomore here at TSU. My 14 yr old daughter (Michelle Cobb) is currently a patient at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in room 8527. She has internal bleeding and they cannot find the source. She has been in and out of ICU and is now stable and doing well except for the internal bleeding. I would like to thank all my professors for their patience and understanding. It has been a very trying time and their understanding has helped alleviate the stress a little. I would also like to thank all my fellow classmates for their untiring support and phone calls. TSU is truly a family and if I did not know that before I am surely aware of it now. Thank you to The Meter for allowing this to be printed because there are so many that

have been there for me through all of this that I am afraid I may forget them. I would especially like to thank Stephanie Coleman, Jamie Runions, Scott Kimbal, Angela Blackford, Maria, Rob S., Fancy Garret, Kathy Philips, Holly, Tim, Lisa, Derek, Tamika, Clint, Rebeccah, Meridith, Dr M. Lee, Dr Einstman, Dr Isa, Dr Komives, Dr Okuma and Ms Courtney Edwards. I know there are a few others but my mind is so boggled right now that I am sure I forgot a few. Once again thank you and please keep her and I in your prayers.

Nina Collins

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Letter to the Editor

Student encourages others to let go of Hefner

Don't Save Hefner, He Doesn't Want to be Saved!

I want to commend President James A. Hefner for his 14 years of dedication to Tennessee State University and its community. According to the news, Dr. Hefner's intentions were geared toward supporting students who could not afford to attend college; he failed to follow the rules set forth by the Tennessee Board of Regents. Dr. Hefner is responsible for developing students who can follow the rules. Should he not be expected to do the same? Had the same effort to "save" Dr. Hefner been utilized to develop policies to allow the scholarship transactions, the university would not have been in this situation, thus Dr. Hefner would have made a difference. This letter is in support of saving Tennessee State University, not Dr. Hefner. Dr. Hefner is not Tennessee State University; otherwise the university would be called James A. Hefner University instead of Tennessee State University. Many people have suggested that if Dr. Hefner goes then Tennessee State University will fall. Well, I beg to differ. Although Dr. Hefner has made significant cosmetic changes to TSU, he has failed to reach out to the student body and meet the student's needs at TSU throughout the years. Dr. Hefner came up with an inspiring motto: "Students Matter Most," but it is not reflected in Dr. Hefner's administration.

I would also like to commend Ashley Northington for expressing her opinions on the situation of "Saving Dr. Hefner," because there is an obvious self censorship in regards to situations such as Dr. Hefner's decision to retire due to an apparent fear of going against the status quo. I don't agree with. I also commend SGA Representative-At-Large Phillip Howard for exercising his First Amendment right by voicing his opinions regarding Ms. Northington's article. Mr. Howard article was very interesting and I expressed that to him.

Although I don't agree entirely with Mr. Howard's article, I would like to commend him and the rest of the student body that are in support of retaining current president for becoming politically active. For the first time in a long time, the student body at TSU from the SGA president to the part-time non-traditional student, has become involved in some-

thing called "Politics as Usual." Yes, this issue of "Saving Dr. Hefner" or finding a new President for Tennessee State University is a political issue.

It is true that the candidates who are nominated to be the next president don't have half the credentials that Dr. Hefner had before he became president. However, they also lack the history of negative allegations Dr. Hefner left behind at Jackson State University prior to becoming TSU's President. Does trouble just follow Dr. Hefner where ever he goes?

SGA has a voice in the matter of choosing the next president and they have failed to nominate one candidate besides Dr. Hefner. Yes, SGA President Chauncey Davis and the Speaker of the House William Bush both sit on the Presidential Search Committee and during the meeting held on Nov.11 decided not to nominate any of the potential candidates from the list. Also representatives of the student body, staff, alumni, and community were there and they nominated Dr. Hefner to succeed himself.

I do not like to be the bearer of bad news but Dr. Hefner cannot remain TSU's president. He isn't getting any younger and his health is questionable considering he fainted during last year's fall commencement. Maybe he wants and needs to retire to take care of himself. Even if Dr. Hefner wants to retire from TSU he couldn't voice his feelings because of how the TSU community will react to him publicly saying he doesn't want to stay.

Also, if Dr. Hefner really wanted to stay, he has had relentless opportunities to speak his mind to the student body, alumni, and TSU community. I have not seen any flyers hung or heard any announcements suggesting that Dr. Hefner will be speaking to us, the students who matter most, on the issues surrounding his retirement. Until Dr. Hefner tells me as well as the rest of the students that he wants to stay, then I have to take the famous words of Project Pat and say, "Don't Save Him, He don't wanna be Saved!" Let Dr. Hefner go and let's focus on solutions conducive to saving the university and not just one individual.

I do not want the Tennessee Board of Regents to choose our next President and I don't want to allow this opportunity of choosing Dr. Hefner's replacement

left entirely up the TBR. So I want to encourage the student body at TSU to write letters to TBR Chancellor Charles Manning expressing that they want to have a voice in choosing the next President of TSU. Another solution to saving TSU is to let Hefner stay additional years until we find a suitable replacement, instead of rushing the process. I also want to encourage the SGA to nominate a good prospective candidate, or at least allow myself to sit on the committee because sorry to say it, although elected representatives; the SGA does not represent the entire student body at TSU. For the most part they represent the Greek population but not the entire student body. For this reason I feel a more diverse collaboration of students should have been allowed to sit on the committee.

I want to let it be known publicly that Mr. Howard is correct in saying that "Whether they want to admit it or not the power of the tiger lies within the students." The power of the tiger within us

and it is up to us to use it to the best of our abilities to save TSU! Also Ms. Northington was correct as well in saying that SGA's actions illustrate not-so-well-thought-out leadership because instead of just trying to "save" Hefner, SGA leaders should better spend their time in assisting the presidential search committee find a suitable replacement that will have the same dedication and commitment Hefner has. So let's stay politically active, politically correct, and politically intelligent! For the record and you can quote me, I want to see a female president as the next President of TSU!

Hodari P.T. Brown, "Member of the Coalition to Save Tennessee State University but not Dr. Hefner."

Send comments/suggestions to:
hb4president@aol.com

This letter was printed in the format in which it was received. It has not been edited for style or content though we reserve the right to do so.

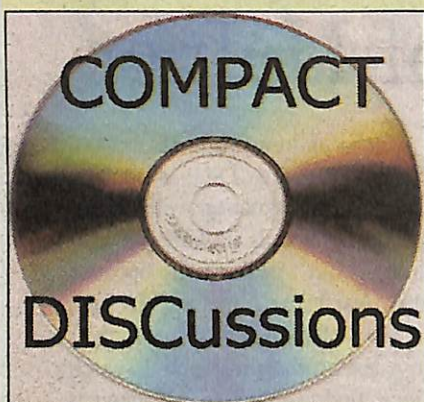
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Arts & Entertainment



Compact DISCUSSION Ratings

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

Fabulous

Real Talk—4/5

Atlantic recording artist and Desert Storm dynamo Fabolous drops musical magic with his third studio LP, *Real Talk*.

For his third set Fabolous loses his trademark Mase-sounding flow for a harder delivery that works. From the front to the end, the album delivers a performance that calls fans to listen just to hear what he has to say.

Each of the tracks tell a story and they all connect to add to the album's street sensibilities. Club bangers and hood anthems fill the album to the top and show how much Fabolous has grown as a lyricist and performer. No longer does he lend tracks to the nonsensical spelling of his name—he stretches to

make you feel his words instead.

The album's lead single *Breathe* is the perfect example of his lyrical growth and delivery development. The meaty life-themed story impressively flows into radio friendly territory without losing its street edge. This type of musical representation and charisma puts Fabolous ahead of the game and opens him up to a new, larger audience.

Though he packs power solo style for most of the album, Fabolous brings the pain (or should I say pleasure?) with his special guests. Tracks including Pharrell, Lil Mo and Nate Dogg all have hit potential.

On top of the content and guest spots, the album's production is the factor that pushes it to the next level. Produced mainly by lesser-known but largely talented beatsmiths, the album is a collective piece of work that joins together smoothly. Selections produced by the Neptunes and Scott Storch even blend effortlessly into the mix.

The album's only weaknesses come into play with the similar sounds. After awhile some of the themes and beats seem to repeat themselves. This hurts a little because the album is mostly tight from beginning to the end. A truly classic album innovates until the end.

Bottom Line: the album is a classic that stands head and shoulders above most of this year's releases. Though it has minor drawbacks, *Real Talk* is still worth the purchase.

Gregory Brand

Trick Daddy

Thug Matrimony—3/5

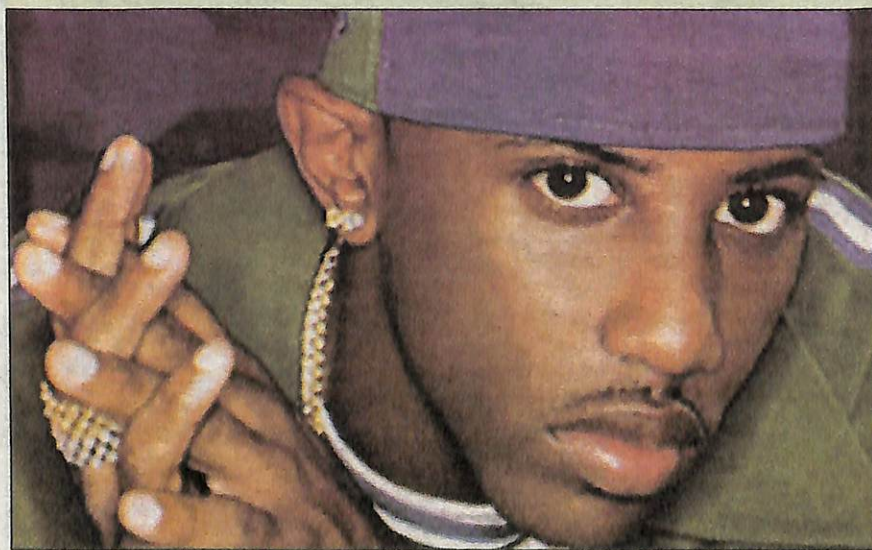


PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSIC-POSTER.INFO

Don't hold your breath, Fabolous style change is better than you think.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VH1.COM

Hip Hop has a new hybrid thanks to Trick Daddy

Slip N Slide superstar Trick Daddy bounces out of his native Miami with more of the southern-fried hip-hop that fuels his fan base with his newest release, *Thug Matrimony, Married to the Streets*.

The album arrives in stores following his own real-life, lawful marriage earlier this year to beauty Amane Burnett and two years after his gold-plus selling *Thug Holiday*. Though the album flexes street muscle, a majority of the album's focus is on Trick's lyrical development and crossover ability.

Dirty South hip-hop has exploded into mainstream music in a big way and the Miami pioneer has been largely left out of the mix. This album along with huge crossover radio hit, *Lets Go*, is sure to place Trick Daddy among southern hip-hop's elite.

Guest spots from fellow Slip N Slide crew member Trina, southern singing beatmaker Jazze Pha and Chicago 'cousin' Twista take the album in a direction that uses the music to do what it does best—incite a riot.

This album is not playing in the party anthem department. The beats make all the magic and it is all good. When Trick attempts to slow it down the product is still steller. The guitar laced and vocally blessed Ron Isley featured *I Cry* is nothing short of amazing.

Among the album's tightest cuts are the life examining *Gangsta Livin'*, infectious funky *Sugar (Gimme Some)* featuring Ludacris and CeeLo and the crowded, crowd-pleaser *Down Wit Da South* featuring Trina, Ying Yang Twins and Deuce Konrads.

Production on the album is as solid as fans of Trick Daddy have come to expect. Work from Lil' Jon, Scott Storch and Jazze Pha carry the album in the beat department very well. For the most part nothing is boring or monotonous. Even the album's samples are well placed and good for the record. They add flavor even comedy, especially the Trey Songs featured *Ain't a Thug*.

This album also takes the time to appreciate how much Trick has matured. His delivery is now more focused and seemingly made to start a party or make you think. Using the kid inclusive formula that made tracks like *Amerikka* hits for Trick Daddy are used this time around to the same effect. 'Trick loves the kids' and it shows.

Guaranteed to keep attention from beginning to end, the album's only weaknesses come out when the album is listened to straight through to the end. The album is filled with party bangers but the tracks spent on encouraging kids and overly reflecting on life's trials punctuate the party mood. Consistency and track sequence can make an average album sound great, and that helped this release.

Bottom Line: Lovers of southern crunk will fall out after a dance to the driving beats and country rhymes despite the short comings.

Gregory Brand

Arts & Entertainment

Hip-hop, enlightenment *Flow* through Power performance

By Meridith M. Miller
A & E Editor

Globally acclaimed actor, rapper and playwright Will Power wowed a Vanderbilt University and community audience when he performed his hit, one-man show *Flow*, a theatrical production aimed at educating the masses on the social impact and importance of hip-hop in urban and suburban communities.

Flow, which took place at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 12 at Vanderbilt's Ingram Center for the Performing Arts, was originally produced by the New York Theatre Workshop and the New York City Hip-Hop Theater Festival. Power's high-energy, enthusiastic performance brought many of today's social, economical, moral and religious issues, such as terrorism and the war in Iraq, funding for education and social programs and hypocrisy in the church, to the light for audience examination. Power simultaneously educated audience members about hip-hop's real connection to life in the streets.

"I never liked a lot of current hip-hop because it's so negative," said Kerri Powell, a Nashville resident who attended the Vanderbilt show. "I've been living in my own little married, white world, but tonight I (was exposed) to a different side of hip-hop, and I see that it is an artistic form of cathartic expression."

Thirty-nine-year-old Powell is representative of the predominantly white, over thirty-five crowd that attended *Flow* at Vanderbilt. Power's entire script is

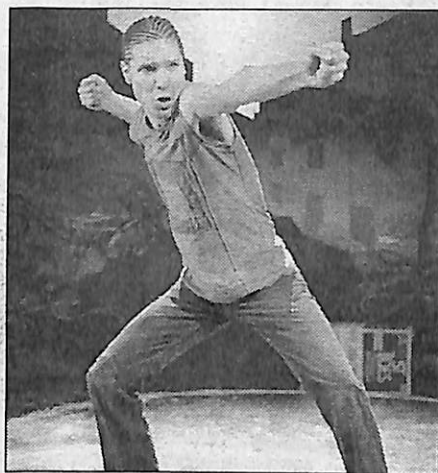


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIDGETTE M. KOHNHORST

Will Power using dance to communicate with his audience

written in rhyme and presented primarily with an old school-style flavor, with references to words of hip-hop pioneers like Rakim's line, "It ain't where you from, it's where you at." *Flow* also includes mention of today's rappers like Jay Z and Foxi Brown, and uses effectively timed music samples from live spinner, DJ Monica, to add to the hip-hop, street ambiance of the show.

Though the older, white audience could not identify with allusions to the hip-hop world as well as their younger counterparts, the presentation was still effective in relaying the importance of social education, awareness and acceptance of all communities.

"The whole show was very thought

provoking," Powell said. "I was shockingly enlightened. He (Power) is definitely from a 'blue state'."

San Francisco Bay area native Power moved to New York City to pursue his love of education through acting and work on developing his theatrical invention of combining original beats and music with captivating choreography and rhythmic speech. Power has gained critical acclaim in the world of hip-hop theater with a successful 11-week, off-Broadway run of *Flow* which made the New York Times Top 10 Theater Listing and gained Power a Drama Desk and Drama League nomination for Best Solo Performance.

The barefoot, cut-off shirt clad Power showed how his superb acting abilities enable him to convincingly portray numerous different characters on stage during *Flow*. Characters included the memorable Sweet Pea with her famous, repetitious line "Ummm okay, okay", the main character in a skit about a young girl who uses rhyming and dancing as a way to escape her current problems and living conditions. To add to the effect of the presentation of characters, Power uses street vernacular which includes slang similar to "Keepin' it real" and "Chillin' with my peeps". To the surprise of some Black audience members and the amusement of the majority of the crowd, Power dared to use the controversial word *nigga* repeatedly throughout his presentation of *Flow*.

"It (usage of *nigga*) doesn't really affect me," said Laini Brown, spring

2004 Tennessee State University Graduate who attended *Flow*. "I can listen to it in music so why can't I listen to it in a theatrical performance."

Power shows his depth of understanding for different cultures and ethnicities through not only portraying African-Americans, but also portraying Latino, European and Asian characters as well.

"I love the power of storytelling and the art of theater," Power said. "I wrote this play and others like it to let our people know that it's not just movies and music that's for us, theater is for us too. It is beautiful, and I want to try to bring young people to the theater to let them know that they can enjoy it too."

Before coming to Nashville Power's most recent performance of *Flow* was at University of California at Los Angeles, and he will continue his tour performing *Flow* at universities and theaters across the nation and the world.

In the future the theatrically and musically trained Power wants to study professional dance. By perfecting every aspect of his presentation he hopes to continue to effectively reach the people everywhere with thought-provoking messages.

"A lot of my work deals with issues like drugs, black on black crime, racism and prejudice," Power said. "I try to deal with the issues in a humorous way, and I hope that people will be entertained and inspired to go and spread the message."

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Sports

Reese, five staff members eliminated

Continued from page 1

"TSU is a gold-mine and well-known institution," Cole said. "TSU always had a rich tradition in recruiting great players. Students were great recruiting tools for us."

James Reese, 2000-04 TSU head football coach, recruited All-American C.J. Johnson, TSU's career leader in receiving yardage; All-American Charles Anthony, TSU's career leader in rushing yardage; and All-OVC defensive end Paul Thomas, who led the OVC in sacks in 2003.

Reese and five members of his staff were relieved of their positions Sat., Nov. 20 after losing to the Murray State University Racers.

Anthony Owens, offensive coordinator, Harry Galbreath, offensive line coach, Dwayne Thomas, defensive ends coach/coordinator of football administration, Eric Mathies, defensive tackles coach and Tony Turner safeties coach/recruiting coordinator were staff who were fired. While quarterbacks coach Shannon Harris, running backs coach Brandon Blew, and defensive coordinator Rod Reed are still apart of the TSU football program.

The reasons for dismissal were not specified by TSU athletics by *Meter* press time and Athletic Director Teresa Phillips could not be reached for comment.

Reese, who posted a 20-26 record in his first four seasons, signed a new contract in August which allotted him four more years to coach for TSU. However,



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Reese on the field during the last practice of TSU coaching career.

the 2004 Tigers finished the season 4-7 and 2-5 in the OVC.

In light of his dismal record, some TSU fans, alumni and supporters started a petition for his dismissal.

TSU alumnus Kelvin Pillow sent a letter, dated Nov. 2, to President James Hefner and Phillips requesting the termination of Reese as head coach. It also asked others to sign an online petition calling for Reese's removal. As of Nov. 21, 59 people have signed the petition that included current football player Lamel Ages and Cole, who both denied signing.

"I would never do that," Cole said. "Coaches are like a fraternity. Reese is a good guy; I was like a mentor to him."

The letter states, "TSU's glorious history as a football power is rapidly vanishing." The boosters also believe

that Reese doesn't have the ability to "sustain a genuinely skilled starting quarterback during his tenure." It says Reese has not been successful during his tenure and has displayed minimal leadership ability to "Our Big Blue Tiger Football Team." Reese had a 23-31 record and was on a five game losing streak at the time the letter was written.

"In this business it's hard to be right," Reese said prior to his dismissal. "I think anything you do is going to be criticized, whether right or wrong. We came into the season with great expectations as all teams do. We only have 13 seniors, so we are a young team and our guys are still playing hard."

Reese was appointed to the head coach position by Hefner without conducting a national search.

Throughout his tenure, Reese emphasized strong academics. He had 53 of 58 graduates and 23 of his players were on the Dean's list for the spring of 2002. In addition to his team's academic success, Reese served as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach during former head coach Cole's 11-0 regular season in 1999. That season the Tigers finished the regular season No. 1 in the nation.

"[A]fter playing the major role of offensive coordinator under two championships, it was natural for him to be promoted," said Shawn Thompson, TSU alumnus who played offensive guard from 1994-98. "To determine whether or not to fire someone you have to measure their output. Coach Reese's output has not been good this season."

This season the Tigers ranked seventh in total offense averaging 340.2 yards per game and sixth in total defense allowing 369.5 ypg. Quarterbacks Riley Walker, Bryson Rosser and Richard Hartman have combined for a 50.3 passing percentage, 19 touchdown passes and 15 interceptions.

Reese has had winning seasons during odd years (2001 and 2003) but losing season in even years (2000, 2002 and 2004).

"He cares more about the actual player instead of winning," said Kandance McIntyre, a freshman from Detroit majoring in math education and physics. "Most team's coaches are about win, win, win but everybody should set standards. Coach Reese is mental and once his physical catches up with his mental, he will be all right."

This season TSU had numerous first stringers suffer from injuries. Walker went down in the Eastern Illinois game, linebacker James Dumervil only played in five games and All-OVC defensive end Thomas has had several nagging injuries. Defensive backs Justin Williams and Aaron Strong have also suffered from substantial injuries. As a result, several freshmen have had extensive playing time.

"It's just one of those things that the injury bug struck," Reed said, "...we're beat up on the offensive line. Anytime you're struggling people start coming out of the wood works. It's frustrating. You just try to keep your head up as a coach and try to keep the players up beat."

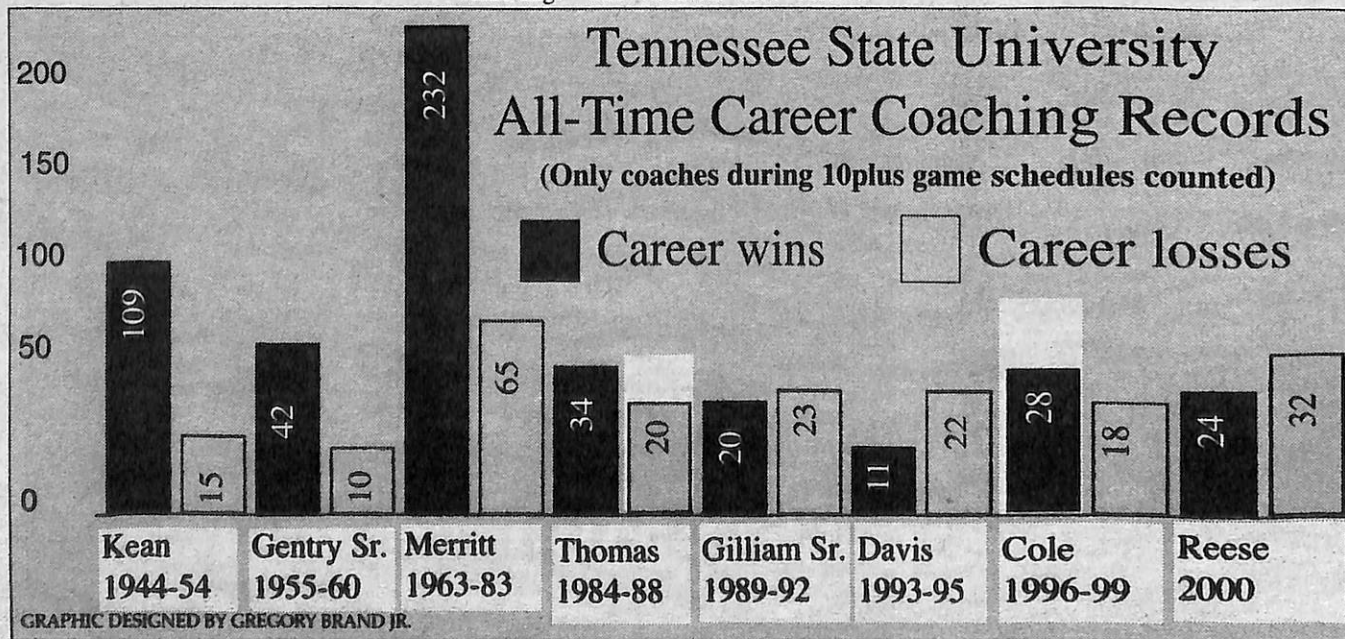
Although TSU suffered several injuries and has lost nearly all of its football staff, Cole said he has a winning staff "waiting in the wings."

Cole also insists that TSU should have never fallen off because the program was already built. While this season's theme was Reloaded. Cole said that all Reese had to do was to "keep reloading."

Disciplining the team was an issue that Cole faced when he took over the program in 1996. According to Cole, discipline is where Reese lost ground and where Cole plans to start, if given the opportunity.

"This is not a personal issue against Reese," Pillow said. "I don't even know the man. This is about a man's inability to lead a team."

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Sports

Volleyball team loses despite fan support

By Dairanetta Spain
Sports Writer

Despite a season with renewed fan support, the Tennessee State Lady Tigers (5-27, 2-14 OVC) were unable to produce a win against Murray State (6-15, 3-11 OVC) 3-1, Tuesday, Nov. 9.

The opening game was a seesaw match-up with the teams trading points until TSU jumped to a 20-13 lead. However, costly errors by the Lady Tigers allowed the Lady Racers to within two points. MSU then called a time-out, regrouped and came out recharged to win the first game of the match, 33-31.

Feeding off the close loss of the first game, TSU came into the second game determined and quickly jumped to a 10-3 lead. The Lady Racers attempted to chip away at the Lady Tigers lead but that was not enough as TSU cruised to a 30-25 win.

"We won the second game, but we can do better," said sophomore Lady Tiger LaQuata Marsh majoring in occupational therapy. "We played off of their mistakes and did not display our full potential. Instead of playing at our level, we played at theirs."

Game three saw MSU jump out to a 10-5 lead. TSU rose to the challenge and came within two, 12-10, led by the serving of junior Jennifer Washington. The Lady Tigers would hang in and display a valiant defensive effort but fall short of a win, 30-22.

Game four went back and forth until the Lady Tigers made some costly mistakes. Capitalizing on the mistakes, MSU went on to take the 30-16 win.

"They gave their best like always," said Dorian Brooks, a freshman from South Bronx, N.Y. majoring in physical education. "... (W)e were in it all the way and towards the end it seemed like they gave up."

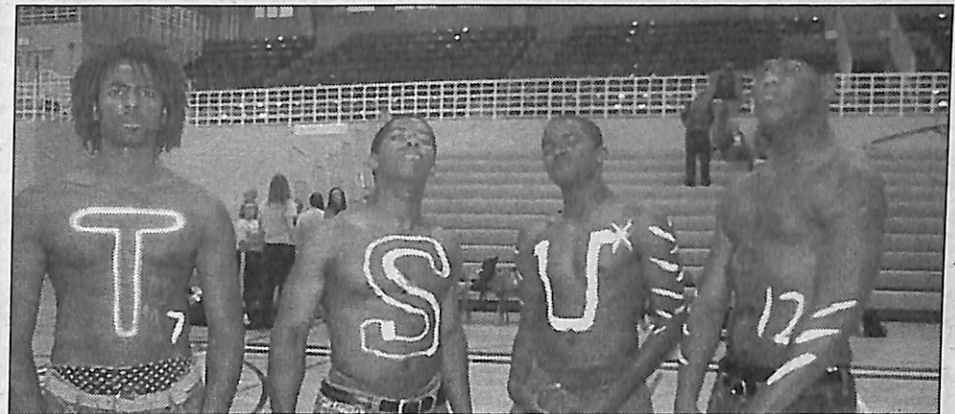


PHOTO BY DESHANEE MINER

Elzey Rosebud, Carl Darnel, Aaron Rosebud and Kobe Gilbert show their support for the volleyball team all season

Junior Catherine Armwood led the Lady Tigers with an impressive team-high of 17 kills and 19 digs. Freshman Allyson Buckner made a contribution of 15 kills, while Washington added 17 digs and freshman Kelly Davis finished with 11 digs and 44 assists.

The Lady Tigers finished the season Saturday, Nov. 13 against Jacksonville State University.

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Rhythm shines with TSU blue

Former Tennessee State University guard Garrett Richardson scored 21 points and four assists in the American Basketball Association debut of the Nashville Rhythm Saturday, Nov. 13.

Former Vanderbilt standout Ashley McElhiney coached her first ever professional game and became the first woman ever to lead a men's professional basketball team. The Rhythm defeated the Reigning Knights of Georgia 109-88 at Lipscomb University.

Richardson finished his career as TSU's all-time leader in steals. His senior season he averaged 11.9 points per game, four assists per game, 3.1 rebounds per game and participated in the first ever Black college All-Star game.

Nashville native Dontae' Jones scored a game-high 41 points, 26 of which were in the first half.

Richardson and the Rhythm's next home game is Dec. 3 against the Arkansas RimRockers.

Tigers' lost ensures losing season

The Tennessee State University

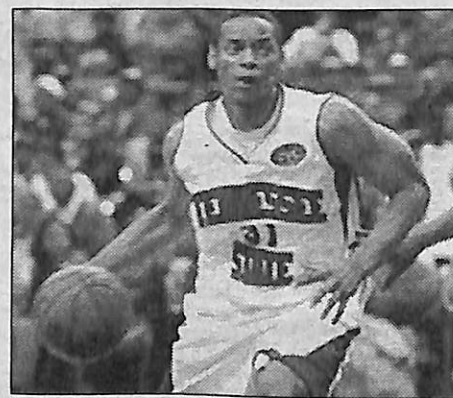


PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGER.COM

Richardson in his TSU days

football team (4-6, 2-4 OVC) was defeated by the Eastern Kentucky Colonels (5-5, 5-2 OVC) 29-14 for its sixth lost of the 11-game season, Saturday, Nov. 13.

EKU running back C.J. Hudson gained 132 yards on 25 attempts and two touchdowns. Hudson's four receptions for 47 yards added to his 179 all-purpose yards. Despite TSU's five turnovers, the Tiger's offense rolled up 356 yards to the Colonels' 232 yards total offense. TSU All-American running back, Charles

Anthony, finished the game with two touchdowns to accompany his 158 yards. Defensive backs Darnell Ray and John Rhoden had nine and seven total tackles respectively.

TSU concluded the season last Saturday against Murray State at the Coliseum.

Men's golf shows well in season finale

The Tennessee State Tigers finished their fall season at the Charleston Southern University Fall Tournament Nov. 2.

TSU posted a third place finish behind host CSU (858) and Florida Atlantic University (868). Following the Tigers' 880 point total was The Citadel, Florida A&M, University of Jacksonville and Bethune Cookman.

The Tiger's Robert Dinwiddie won the individual title by sinking a 20-foot putt giving him a one-stroke lead for the win over CSU's Paul Reed. Phillip Watkins tied for ninth to post TSU's second individual top ten finish.

The ten team competition was held at the Coosaw Creek Country Club in Charleston, S.C.

Lady Tigers win in OVC again

The Tennessee State University volleyball team (5-27, 2-14 OVC) defeated the Samford Bulldogs 3-1 to claim their second Ohio Valley Conference win of the season Friday, Nov. 12.

TSU dropped the first game 30-14 but bounced back strong to take the next three. Freshman Kelly Davis led the Lady Tigers to a 30-24 win. The Tigers went on to cruise to 30-18 and 30-21 victories over the Bulldogs.

Junior Catherine Armwood tallied 15 kills and 14 digs on her way to becoming the first ever TSU volleyball player to record 1000 digs and 500 kills in her career. Junior Jennifer Washington had 23 digs.

Compiled by Eddie R. Cole, Jr.


Tiger Briefs

Tiger Trivia:



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