



See how this alumni is connected to a presidential candidate.

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Find out what he thinks about affirmative action.

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Find out what this tiger-bell did for her team.

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TSU Men's Basketball
 TSU 100
 Morehead State 65

Security cameras catching crime

By Pharren Lowther
 Campus News Writer

After a semester in use and a cost of \$500,000, 43 campus security cameras have helped reduce car thefts and break-ins and caught several criminal acts on tape, leading to perpetrator apprehension, according to Tennessee State University Police Department officials.

"The cameras are useful," said Officer Tabitha Koger, who spends up to eight hours a day in the student center surveillance room glued to screens that monitor images from the cameras.

Koger also said the cameras don't replace steps students can take to improve their own safety, such as making sure car See "Crimes" on page 2



PHOTO BY DESHANEE MINER

Cameras such as this one at Wilson Hall watch over parking lots and entrances

Black professional theater unique on campus

By Tawana Tolbert
 A&E Writer

The American Negro Playwright Theatre on the campus of Tennessee State University is the only theatre company housed at a historically Black university.

It joins the African-American Shakespeare Co. in San Francisco, the Black Theatre Troupe Inc. in Phoenix and the Harlem Ensemble Co. among the few well known Black theatre companies that are still standing.

Founded off campus at the Tennessee Repertory Theatre in 1991, the ANPT brought its annual productions to campus in 2001 with a performance of *Fences*, direct-

ed by John Henry Redwood. ANPT was first housed at TSU's Thomas Edward Poag Auditorium and, since 2003, resides at the new Performing Arts Center. Distinct from, though coordinated with the theater program in the department of communications, its mission is to bring plays by Black playwrights to the TSU and Nashville communities.

"By using theater to demonstrate the Black experience, I see the opportunity to illustrate the collective human experience," ANPT founder and artistic director Barry Scott said in the program for the fourth on-campus production, *Looking Over the*

See "Black" on page 6

Coach Carter spirit hits home

By Sheena Hamilton
 Sports Writer

Inner-city basketball movie *Coach Carter* may have brought about a change in the way some institutions focus on athletics but not at Tennessee State University.

The Tiger athletic program already requires its athletes to attend eight or more hours of study hall if their grade point average falls below a 2.5. The athletic academic lab, located in Kean Hall, is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and offers eight student tutors and one faculty member. Student tutors specialize in areas such as mathematics, literature, sciences, and foreign language.

"The *Coach Carter* situation is realistic," said Johnnie C. Smith, TSU's new assistant director of academic services. "There are still student-athletes who come to universities just to play ball and do not realize that being here, getting a free education, is a privilege."

Smith comes to TSU after 12 years at Austin Peay State University where she held several academic positions and the athletic program received the O V C Academic Banner during the 2002-2003 season, the first time in APSU history.

She defines herself as a realist and a straight shooter eager to promote the acad-

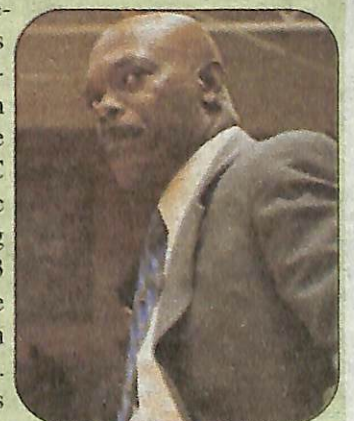


PHOTO COURTESY OF MTV.COM

Samuel L. Jackson as the inspirational Ken Carter.

See "Athletes" on page 9

Campus News

Crimes mostly drug related

Continued from page 1

doors are locked and securing valuables in dorm rooms.

"These cameras are only tools used to combat crime and not the complete solution," said Venus Allen, campus crime prevention counselor. "We still need the eyes of individuals working in combined effort with the police department to successfully fight this battle."

The TSUPD said that fall '04 automobile theft reports declined 80 percent from 35 reported incidents to seven in the fall '03 semester. Automobile break-ins reportedly are down 58 percent from 43 reported incidents to 18. Theft of vehicle parts reportedly is down 59 percent from 49 to 20 and sex offenses, such as rape and forcible fondling, reportedly are down from two cases to one in the same time period. Crimes occurring off campus are not included in these statistics.

The crimes caught on camera were drug related cases and attempted car thefts," Allen said. She added that Student Affairs Vice President, Thomas Martin, and Associate Vice President,

Dorothy Lockridge did not give her authorization to discuss the specifics of the cases.

"The cameras make it known that TSUPD is concerned about crime," said 2004 TSU alumnus Rodney Wiley. "It's no wonder there were so many break-ins before."

Although the core of TSU's campus safety plan is a presence of 27 campus police officers and 11 campus security officers, video surveillance was designed to capture incidents not easily visible to officers. Cameras were installed in areas of high student concentrations, including every parking lot and residence hall with the exception of the Ford Residential and the New Residence complexes.

According to TSU's purchasing and business services department, the camera installation project was funded by the university using a reserve fund designed to make campus repairs.

The cameras are extremely hi-tech, with a 360-degree rotation.

Lt. Phillip Beene said that the Wilson Hall camera has a zoom that is capable of reaching to the Millennium

Maxwell House hotel located on Metro Center Boulevard.

"It's like, every time I stand outside of Boyd to smoke a Newport, I feel as if someone is watching," said Kevin McHenry, a senior from Decatur, Ga. majoring in business. "It's too many cameras."

The College and University Security and Information Act requires the preparation of a campus handbook annually for students, faculty and staff. The TSUPD campus handbook discloses four years of crime statistics and other useful information. This crime log is located at the reception desk of the department for public viewing.

"In most cases, the negative element that steals or vandalizes is invited onto our campus by other students," Beene said, adding that since the Christmas holidays the majority of his caseload has come from missing items.

The TSUPD is located in the General Services Building, 3510 West Heiman Street. The number to call to report crime is 963-5171.

Events Calendar

Today

SGA Gen. Assembly Mtg.
7p.m.
FPCC Rm. 210

My Sister's Keeper Seminar
8p.m.
FPCC Rm. 210

Bible Study
7:30p.m.
FPCC Rm. 217

Tomorrow

"The Brown Sisters"
1p.m.
Poag. Aud.
Humanities Bldg.

Wednesday

"Jar The Floor"
8p.m.
Performance Art Center

Thursday

"Crimson & Crème" Café
6p.m.
Elliot Hall Aud.

Community Service Fair
9a.m.
Kean Gym

Back to Africa
6p.m.
FPCC Rm. 210

Bible Study
7p.m.
LRC Aud.

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Publication Board,
Tennessee State University in the
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Corrections

The Meter regrets errors and continuously strives to improve.

Campus News

Former student, presidential candidate share connection

By Ashley Northington
Editor in Chief

December 2004 graduate Ariel Ruffin attended the National Conference of Black Physics Students after e-mailing Tennessee State University presidential candidate Cynthia McIntyre.

McIntyre, who holds a doctorate in physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, co-founded the NCBPS while a student at MIT.

Ruffin, who received her Bachelor of Science degree in physics, contacted McIntyre via e-mail on Thursday, Jan. 27, after she learned McIntyre was a physicist and running for the TSU presidency. The following Monday morning Ruffin received an e-mail inviting her to an all expenses paid trip to the conference the same week.

Ruffin said her reasoning for contacting McIntyre was to gain a connection with someone who had already accomplished some of her similar aspirations. She said she did not expect her to respond so rapidly and with an invitation to attend a national conference.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY NORTHINGTON

Alumna Ariel Ruffin and Presidential candidate Cynthia McIntyre share connection in the physics field.

"I was so excited when I received her e-mail," Ruffin said. "She instructed me to contact a travel agency and when I did I already had my ticket and hotel room available. I am so appreciative of this opportunity."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RENSSELAER INSTITUTE

The goals of the conference, held Feb. 3-Feb. 5 at Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, are to develop a network within the black physics community; to make black students in physics, particularly at the graduate level, aware of academic and professional opportunities; and to bring important issues and developments in the field to the attention of these students, according to its web site.

Though Ruffin appreciates her opportunity to attend the NCBPS, this is not the first physics conference she has attended. In high school, Ruffin attended summer programs at Morris Brown College, Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, and TSU. While studying at

TSU, she has gone to California Institute of Technology, Rutgers University, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to perform research. She also has attended the National Society of Black Physicists and Black Physicists Conference for the past two years. Ruffin has participated in and been a counselor for the Packard Science Institute summer mathematics and science program at TSU. Currently, Ruffin interns in the Spallation Neutron Source Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Less than 10 percent of people who hold graduate degrees on either the masters or doctorate level are black women, according to the American Institute of Physics.

"There are not many black physicists, especially ones who are women," Ruffin said. "I was just so glad to see another African-American woman physicist, especially one who is running for the presidency of my alma mater."

McIntyre currently serves as the chief of staff; associate vice-president for policy and planning; clinical associate professor of physics, applied physics, and astronomy all at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. She is still in the running for the presidency and received 10 votes at the last presidential search committee meeting on Dec. 13.

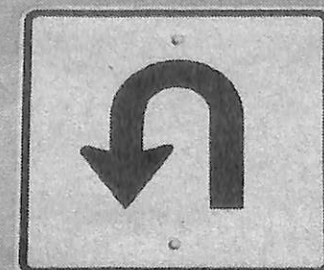
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Forum

What We Think

Apathy rears its ugly head

When the presidential candidates were on campus beginning Jan. 24-Jan.27, approximately 20 students were at each of the student forum sections. Unfortunately, about six of the students were editors or reporters for *The Meter*. Our news organization published a special edition all pertaining to the Tennessee State University presidential search. But, several of those issues could be found in the trash, in the courtyard, or on the floor of the Floyd-Payne Campus Center.

This university invites several lecturers to campus throughout the school year, but hardly any students attend.

There was not even a *Meter* reporter at this year's SGA presidential inauguration, and we were informed by SGA officials that there were very few students present. But, most parties and cookouts are usually full of students.

In the beginning of the school year, *The Meter* and *The Tennessean* yearbook staffs were full of eager, enthusiastic people who claimed to be willing to dedicate time and effort to the staffs. Now, as the academic year approaches its end, both organizations have problems finding people to perform tasks.

What is the problem with these occurrences? Student apathy. What is the

solution? Who knows? Students should care about the happenings of the campus, but the truth is a lot of them are not concerned. It is very easy to dismiss everything that happens on campus with the rigors of daily life constantly pulling in every direction, but remember everything runs smoothly (most of the time) here because of good leadership. If unworthy and unacceptable things are allowed inside because of apathy who knows what horror lies down the road.

For the past two years, a person has run for SGA president who has never participated in the Student Union Board of Governors or either of the houses of

SGA. One person, Shawntaz Crawford, won and the next year Bradley Campbell lost by only 50 votes. Not taking anything away from the latter mentioned candidates but, why does this keep happening? Is it because students can align with those who have similar interests or is it because these students really have unique qualities that make them an asset to the student body. Whatever the case, TSU needs to wake up, get involved, and pay attention. •

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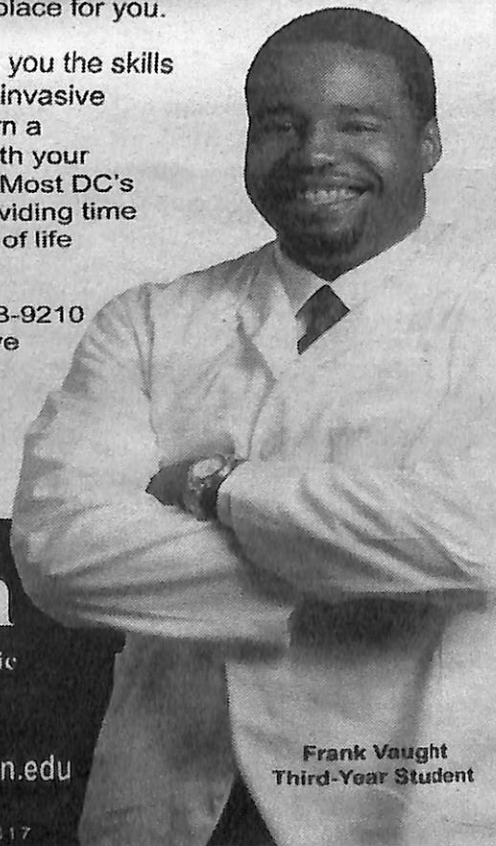


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Campus News

Professor: Affirmative action cripples Blacks in law school

By Chasitie S. Goodman
A&E Writer

Affirmative action, which affords Blacks and other minorities the chance to receive opportunities that were traditionally excluded from like law school, is actually working against Blacks, according to a study conducted by a University of California, Los Angeles law professor and social scientist Richard H. Sander.

The study has research dating back from 1995 and has been newly featured in the January 2005 *Stanford Law Review*.

"The big picture is that this system of racial preferences is no longer clearly achieving the goal of expanding the number of black lawyers," Sander said. "There is a very good chance that we are creating such high attrition rates that we're actually lowering production of Black lawyers, and certainly we are weakening the preparation of the Black lawyers we are producing."

Sander's 117-page study alleges that the nation's top law schools were running over one another to fill their quota of Black students which in effect caused them to pick less qualified students that struggle to meet the requirements and high expectations of their prestigious schools. Sander also alleges that the long term effect of affirmative action in the case of law schools would be to produce fewer Black lawyers.

"I started the study thinking that the results that I found would be mostly fairly neutral," stated Sander, "and I was very surprised that in area after

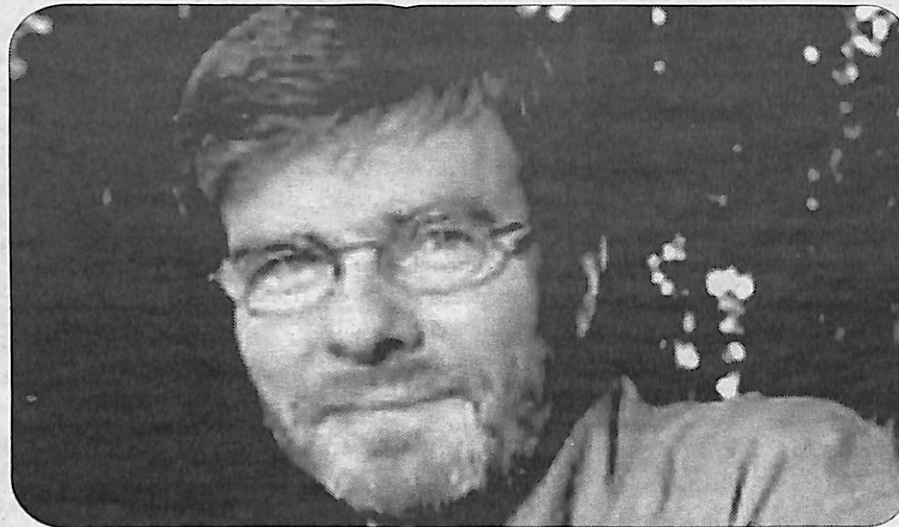


PHOTO COURTESY OF UCLA.EDU

Richard H. Sander

area I found that the cost of preferences on Black law students exceeded the benefits."

Sander's study concludes that Black law students cannot keep up with their white counterparts, drop out of law school, and, if and when they do graduate from law school, they never pass the bar exam.

The average test score for the Law School Admissions Test is 165, according to the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*. Only one percent of Black law students meet or exceed this score.

"While I agree that affirmative action does aid in admitting Blacks to law school," said law school prospect LaKeisha Grimes, a senior from Washington, D.C. who is majoring in sociology, "I strongly believe that it is not the only determining factor. They have to consider grade point averages,

resumes, personal statements, and letters of recommendation."

The JBHE also researched affirmative action's effect on Black law school students. They conclude that an estimated 80 percent of the 1,650 law school students are admitted into law school with the help of affirmative action.

However, in the same study done by the JBHE, in 26 of the top schools in the nation, including Harvard, Blacks graduated at a rate of 84.2 percent or better.

"This study has been widely criticized by empirical scientists that have been working with the same numbers," said Kimberly Crenshaw, UCLA law professor, "If it sounds too good to be true, it is."

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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 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 the right to reject letters, articles, or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

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.

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CIRCULATION: 3,000

The Meter is committed to serving TSU and the Nashville community. If you would like to become a supply outpost for *The Meter* or have an idea or suggestion regarding circulation please contact:

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Campus News

Mr. TSU speaks at his first FCA meeting

By Eddie R. Cole Jr.
Sports Editor

Mr. Tennessee State University Antwan Suttle gave his first speech at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes weekly meeting in the Gentry Center, Monday, Jan. 31.

Suttle said he hadn't heard about FCA before being invited to speak at the meeting but urges students to come give their life to God.

"A lot of people don't know about FCA," Suttle said. "It's a great movement not just an organization."

The FCA invited Mr. TSU and Ms. TSU Yolanda Robinson to speak because they both are visibly active in their churches and hold a position of influence on campus similar to an athlete, according to Sheena Hamilton FCA secretary. Suttle spoke to FCA about keeping their faith through the temptations that they may encounter.

"When I received the title (Mr. TSU), I felt it was blessing from God," Suttle said during his speech. "No matter how many people turn their back on you, keep believing in God. It's hard being a Christian on a college campus...you must remember there is only one reason to be here and that's to be great."

Following Suttle's speech, FCA President and All-Ohio Valley Conference defensive end on the TSU football team, Paul Thomas briefly told the group to "keep your focus" through your daily lives, and FCA recruiter Deatrice Johnson presented the thought of the week which was "Opportunities may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever."

Carlos Jones, FCA vice president and sophomore safety on the football team, advised people not to be ashamed of God. He said a lot of people go away from God and come back when something goes wrong but you have to keep the faith going.

"You can be a normal person and still be a Christian," Jones said.

Suttle's advice for non-Christians was to invite Christ into your life. "That (Christ) is what keeps me going through



PHOTO BY ELBERT JAQUESS

Suttle speaks to one of his fellow students at the FCA meeting.

my everyday struggle," Suttle said.

FCA is a national organization used by coaches and athletes on the youth, junior high, high school, college, and professional level athletic platform to impact the world for Jesus Christ since 1954. FCA, the largest interdenominational, school-based, Christian sports organization in America, focuses on serving their local communities by motivating people to make a difference for Christ.

Lee Brown is the urban representative for the FCA group at TSU and has worked with Nashville's FCA for five years.

"This group really sits a part," Brown said. "They have made a serious commitment to putting God first. We (FCA) believe the most important decision a person can make is to accept Jesus as their Lord."

Brown also said the FCA is trying to take the ministry throughout campus and into the city of Nashville. He said every time a player scores they are doing it to bring glory to God.

"God created us to bring...glory," he said. "His (goal) for us is that we all are saved. Whatever we do, we should do it as unto the Lord...the way we live should bring God glory."

The FCA traveled to Cookeville, Tenn. for the "FCA College Advance" Feb. 4-6, and meets every Monday night in the Gentry Center at 7 p.m. FCA meetings are open to the entire student body not just athletes.

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Black theatre exposes viewers to historical drama

Continued from page 1

President's Shoulder, presented during the fall semester of 2004. "Historical and cultural diversity is not only worth being told, but understood, nurtured, cherished and loved."

Through the ANPT, audiences not only get to see plays by such playwrights as Lorraine Hansberry, August Wilson, and Joseph Walker, they also get exposed to professional directors. For example, in October, Robert Guillaume, best known as the lead character in the television sit-com *Benson* and the voice of Raifiki in *The Lion King*, lent his directorial talents to *President's Shoulder*.

In 2002, Woodie King Jr., well known for his more than 30 years of professional theater company and directing credits, brought his professional talents to campus to work with theater students and direct the famous play *A Lesson Before Dying*.

"I think through performing arts—whether it's dance or music, even if it's rap, even if it's opera, even if it's classical music, or theatre, or television, comedy, or drama—this is the opportunity for us to articulate our experience," Scott said.

Students not only are taught in workshops by the professionals associated with ANPT productions, they also apply their work with these professionals to their department productions.

"I enjoy working with the ANPT productions because they give me a chance to interact with professionals in the theater business," said Kenetha Washington, a senior from San Francisco, majoring in biology who has worked as a production assistant with the ANPT and the academic theater program. "It also gives the opportunity to bring professional aspects to the TSU productions."

The ANPT grew from the ashes of the Black Tie Theatre Company, which Scott started in 1981 and saw fade away by 1983 due to a lack of funds. Scott didn't want to start another theater company, but he had to as he believed it was the only way to get plays by Black playwrights locally produced.

As an actor, then working regularly

with the Tennessee Repertory Theatre, Scott said he was frustrated that the theater was doing no plays by or about African-Americans. He said he especially wanted to do a production of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* and Tennessee Rep. officials told him Nashville didn't have enough black actors to do that play.

Thus Scott started the ANPT and presented the play himself as the theater's first production in 1991.

Chandra Lipscomb, a new public speaking instructor at TSU, was introduced to the ANPT in its debut season when she was selected to play Ruth Younger in *A Raisin in the Sun*. In August 2003, she shared with audiences the music, dance, and spoken words of the Harlem Renaissance in *Harlem Voices*, the first ANPT production in its current space. After working with that production, the Nashville native came back home to work with Scott.

"I was so impressed with my experiences working with the ANPT," Younger said. "I wanted to come back home."

After the ANPT kicks off the campus theater season each fall, the department plays complete the schedule for the academic year and summer stock presents in the summer months.

Kimberley LaMarque, assistant professor of theater and director of the award-winning forensics team, serves as the ANPT's associate producing artistic director and directs some of the other plays on the schedule. This semester, she's giving audiences the opportunity to meet the women of the Lakeland family by directing Cheryl West's *Jar the Floor*.

Scott also lends a hand to campus plays not presented by the ANPT. In November, he directed August Wilson's *Jitney*, which took audiences to an illegal cab station operating in Pittsburgh in the late '70s. The play is filled with period music, laughter, drama, and a cast of five men and a woman.

"*Jitney* was a really good show," said Gabby Sanchez, a freshman from Laverne, Tenn. majoring in nursing. "I can't wait to see what's next."

Arts & Entertainment

Companies tune in to wearable technology

By Dayna Lovelady
A & E Writer

Technology company Motorola is teaming up with the privately-run apparel maker Burton of Burlington, Vt. to develop high-tech gear aimed to servicing skiers, snowboarders and other outdoor sporting fans who may enjoy technological company in the form of radio tunes.

The new clothing was released during the 2005 Consumer Electronics Show, and it will consist of outerwear such as coats, jackets and suitable accessories expected to be released for purchase during the 2005-2006 winter season.

All jackets will come with special compartments for Motorola cell phones and other portable electronic devices such as radios and MP3 players. Located on the sleeves of the jackets will be a small device that allows the wearer to control his cellular phone usage as well as the sounds and stations of a portable radio or the musical selections of an MP3 player. This convenient device allows the wearer to switch back and forth between cellular usage and music or entertainment usage. All audio, whether from cell phones or radios, are transmitted through built-in headphones in the hood of the jackets.

"I love new electronics and technology but this isn't the best idea to me, said Yvette Bean, a junior Chemistry major from Atlanta. "They might be a good idea for athletes but not for the normal consumer."

While there has been no price quote

given for the new electronic outerwear, according to the Peakwear Gear Store, the average Burton jacket without the electronic extras range in price from \$200 to \$500 dollars. Bluetooth technology, a popular technology which allows people to use devices such as headsets, radios and computers to communicate with one another over short distances, will execute the wiring of the new Burton clothing products.

By teaming up with other companies to increase production of products geared toward a younger, active audience, Motorola hopes to increase its popularity and raise brand recognition among a larger consumer base.

"These new 'radio jackets' are a little different but they do give us something new," said DeJuan Fields, a junior computer science major from Washington. "Who knows, they might be a nice boost in sales for Motorola."

Even GapKids has gotten into the wearable technology arena. GapKids collaborated with toy maker WildPlanet to form the "Hoodio". The name "Hoodio" is a combination of a hoodie jacket and a radio. On the sleeve the Hoodio has a control keypad for the volume and tuning, and the hood has removable speakers concealed inside the hood of the jacket.

The Hoodio comes in black, green, blue and pink, and camouflage and retails for \$68. WildPlanet also teamed up with Gap to bring 10-year-old Nathan Tung's designer contest-winning Explorer Gloves to life. These gloves include a built in signal light, watch and

compass. The gloves will be sold with GapKids' new camo jacket which retails for \$50.

"I think it will be a success for GapKids and for technology itself," said Esther Coleman, a Gap sales associate and from Athens, GA, majoring in elementary education. "Kids are going to love the interactivity of this

new product. [M]ost adults now use MP3 players as a way to listen to music. If Gap chose to use an MP3 player instead of a radio (in an adult Hoodio), it would be a hit. I would not buy it myself."

While most view new clothing technology as a cutting-edge and convenient option for adults, retailers like Coleman question the safety of such products for children.

"I do not think this product is safe," Coleman said. "When wearing the Hoodio outside it might obstruct your side vision and affect what (a child) can hear. Kids have to make sure that they are aware of their surroundings while wearing the jacket."•



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIZMDO.COM

"Who knows, they might be a nice boost in sales for Motorola."

-DeJuan Fields



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

Nas

Street's Disciple 4/5

Like him or not, credit is due to Nas for speaking his mind, and he does

precisely that in his fiercer and bolder than ever new release, *Street's Disciple*.

The two-disc set is designed specially for those who love listening to and appreciating challenging lyricism. The beats are different from anything heard on the latest crunk-hop offerings and glossy, million dollar-sellers. The lyrics of this new album are reminiscent of old-school hip-hop with their thumping baselines, samples and soulful, simplistic qualities.

Nas shows his versatility with *No One Else in the Room* featuring R&B crooner Maxwell. This track is very 80's with a groovy upbeat. Other breakout hits include *Virgo* with the beats provided by the lips of the legendary Doug E. Fresh and guest rhymes from Ludacris, and the track *Unauthorized Biography of Rakim* where Nas pays homage to the rapper by laying his biography on wax. Other album guests include; Kelis, Busta Rhymes, Keon Bryce, Quan, Emily and Nas' father Olu Dara on the single *Bridging the Gap*.

As expected, the best part of the

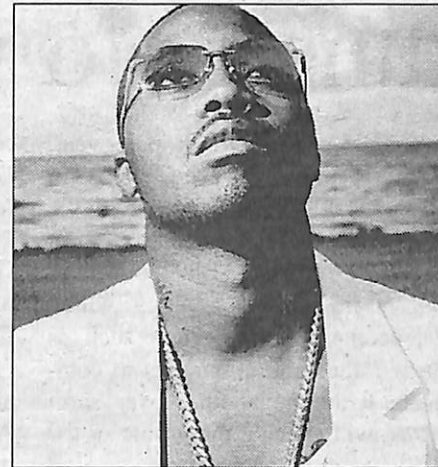


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Nas released two disc album *Street's Disciple*.

album is Nas's lyrical talents. Arguably, one of the most controversial songs of his career is *These are Our Heroes* in which Nas calls out; Taye Diggs of *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* and *The Best Man*, Academy Award winner Cuba Gooding Jr. of *Jerry Maguire* and Masters winner Tiger Woods for not

keeping it real with the Black community by dating and marrying outside of the African-American race and denying Black heritage. Nas even goes so far as to call Kobe Bryant, "Toby" and refer to him as being made an "example."

Nas's storytelling skills are impeccable on songs like *Sekou Story* and *Live Now* which features an eye-opening verse by rising emcee Scarlett.

Overall, Nas delivers another classic album that lives up to his self-proclaimed title, of the street's disciple. Real hip-hop lovers and street-beat listeners everywhere can respect him for dropping out of school in the 8th grade, but still having the courage and intelligence to produce albums with eloquent and confident lyricism.

Chasitie S. Goodman

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Sports

Athletes aim to be quality students

Continued from page 1

emic emphasis in the Carter movie.

Smith said she believes coaches are the biggest influence in the scholastic performance of their athletes. The Tiger program requires professors to complete progress reports on student athletes twice per semester and relies heavily on the motivation of the faculty to communicate with its office. However, in *Coach Carter*, teachers and parents complained about being asked to submit progress reports on athletes.

"It is very important that they realize that they are students first," head men's basketball coach Cy Alexander said. "I am pleased to say that everyone in our program who was supposed to graduate did so last year and I believe that will continue to be the case."

Valencia Jordan, senior women's coordinator, said she believes TSU can be proud of its student-athletes, who rank third in academics among the eleven universities in the Ohio Valley Conference.

"Although all universities are affected by academic problems," Jordan said, "I believe that it is at larger institutions, when players bring in so much revenue and are likely to play professionally, more elite athletes don't graduate. When student-athletes do not understand the importance of scholastic achievement, their university has failed them."

While TSU may have academics as a top priority, *Coach Carter* is based on the true story of a high school basketball team in Richmond, Calif. It depicts a team that initially had a poor record and an older coach. But then Ken Carter comes in and transforms the struggling team. Carter has his young athletes sign a performance contract detailing expectations on and off the court. Richmond began their season with a 13-0 record but when the players failed academically to hold up their end of the contracts; Carter closes the gym and cancels games.

"Of course this is a fantastic story or it wouldn't be a movie," said Jamaya Simmons, a senior biology major from Chattanooga, Tenn. "Although their story isn't quite the same statistically, I know a team in Tennessee who receives that much hype and is that successful—

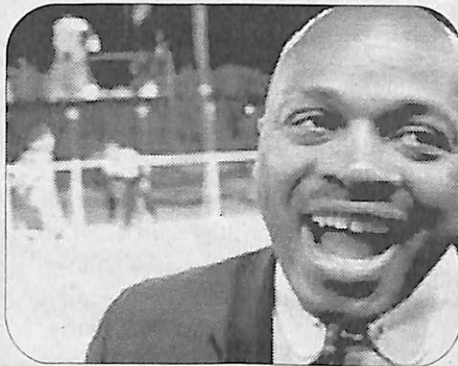


PHOTO COURTESY OF COACHCARTER.COM

The real Coach Ken Carter who is portrayed by actor Samuel L. Jackson.

Memphis' White Station High School—and has been for years."

While White Station's coach hasn't locked its gym, the school quite possibly is the best basketball team in the state, winning three consecutive state class AAA titles. TSU's freshman guard Reiley Ervin, was the most valuable player in the 2004 state tournament. Ervin has already left his mark on the Ohio Valley Conference by being named freshman of the week two consecutive weeks in January. He also brings his high school's commitment to academics with him.

"When I was younger, academics was extremely important to me because if I didn't get the grades, I couldn't play the game I love," Ervin said. "...If you were on the basketball team you were highly favored. Our fans and classmates were very supportive and we sold out several games."

Ervin said his high school coaches motivated his team members to stay on top of their coursework with sheer discipline. Although he recognizes that there were times when some of his high school teammates slipped academically, collectively he said he believed they handled their schoolwork well.

Following three weeks as one of the box office's top gross revenue leaders, *Coach Carter* has proven to be the latest motivational sports film that has captured the spirit of America's love for sports and the hearts of the TSU athletic family.

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Sports

Trainers vital to athletes' success

By Dairanetta Spain and
Sheena Hamilton
Sports Writers

Although few seem to realize the significance of an athletic trainer, each day Tennessee State University's athletic staff arrives prepared to treat and assist approximately 350 student athletes.

The athletic trainer plays a vital role in the management, prevention and rehabilitation of injury as well as serving as mediators and counselors among coaches, physicians and student-athletes, according to the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

"I chose to become an athletic trainer because it allowed me to work with athletes and also to be in the healthcare profession," TSU athletic trainer Patrice Elder said. "Our job is very important because we deal with the prevention and care of athletic injury; we work hands on with the athletes."

Currently TSU's College of Health Science does not offer an undergraduate degree program in physical therapy but does offer a graduate degree in physical therapy.

"Some students who want to go into something like athletic training major in health sciences for undergrad and take up a concentration in the physical sciences," said Ashley Tillman, a sophomore majoring in health science with a concentration



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Tennessee State University athletic trainer Patrice Elder demonstrates how to properly apply tape.

in public health from Memphis, Tenn.

Currently there are 25,000 certified trainers nationwide and less than 10 percent are of color, according to the Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee.

In an effort to increase the number of minorities in the profession, the Ethnic Diversity Athletic Trainer Committee strives for representation by offering scholarships and various programs specifically designed for minorities across the nation.

TSU's head athletic trainer and southeastern representative for the EDAT, Monroe Abram, received the College Athletic Trainer of the Year Award from the Tennessee Athletic Training Association for the 2003-2004 season.

"We see the athlete at his weakest point," Abram said. "Watching an athlete having a bad injury, coming back on the field and actually doing well is probably the most rewarding thing we can see. Knowing that we had our hand in it is gratifying."

According to Associate Athletic Director of Internal Operations, Jake Cabell, there is no specific or official

award for recognition or appreciation for members of the TSU athletic training staff.

Although they are usually in attendance at the university's official athletic banquet, that event is primarily meant to highlight student-athletes and their accomplishments.

"We are the first ones on site for an emergency situation," Elder said. "We're there for the games and practices and we deal with the athlete psychologically, physically, and sometimes spiritually. We care for the athletes as if they were our own family."

Without the efforts of these athletic trainers some of these athletes may not be able to receive awards or possibly even participate on the field or court. However, student-athletes and coaches do appreciate and speak highly of their training staff.

Carlos Jones, a sophomore strong safety from Houston, recently endured arthroscopic surgery for torn cartilage

and a cyst on his collar bone. Jones thinks he suffered this injury in August during training camp, but still played through the 2004 season and racked up 21 tackles and 18 assists.

"Football is a contact sport; no player usually gets through the season without some sort of injury," Jones said. "The athletic training staff is very important because they are so accessible to us and they help the players to speed up the healing process with treatment as well as advice."

Assistant football coach Randy Fuller, a former TSU standout and fourth round National Football League draft pick, also recognizes the value of a training staff and how important they are to how well the team does.

"One of the keys to a program being successful is directly correlated to how useful and effective the training staff is," Fuller said. "We appreciate all of the hard work and all of the time that the trainers give to the athletic teams."•



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

James Hinshaw shows students how to tape an ankle.

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Sports

Women's indoor track dominates SIU tourney

The Tigerbelles claimed all four top positions in the 400-meter dash at the Southern Illinois University invitational indoor meet, Saturday, Jan. 22.

Dominique Ward led the way clocking in at 57.52 seconds, followed by teammates Rebekah Robinson(58.77), Jennifer Lawson(59.02) and Porsche Buckner(59.03) as the Tigerbelles completed a clean sweep of the event.

Tigerbelle Shanique Hector finished fifth in the long jump event and placed fourth in the pole vault. In the 55-meter hurdles, Mildred Rachael finished third, and Latheria Lewis posted a seventh place ranking in the shot put.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Tigerbelle Dominique Ward won SIU's 400-meter dash.

was named Ohio Valley Conference Male Athlete of the Week for his showing at the Ed Temple Classic, held Sunday, Jan. 9. Williams' high jump of 6

feet 8 inches was tops in the category of college athletes and he also posted a fourth place finish with a long jump of 23 feet 7 inches.

Compiled by Eddie R. Cole Jr.

Ed Temple Classic Posts Record Numbers

The 2005 Ed Temple Indoor Classic reached an all-time high in participation with 700 athletes, Sunday, Jan. 9.

The track meet was named after legendary women's track and field coach Ed Temple. Temple coached the Tigerbelles for 44 years and was a three time Olympic coach. Within the 44 years he coached at TSU 29 Tigerbelles took Olympic medals.

Along with the Tigerbelles, other historically black colleges participated such as Fisk, Alabama A&M, Alabama

State, Florida A&M, Grambling, Jackson State, Mississippi Valley State, Morehouse and Southern.

The Tigerbelles won 10 events. The winners included Shanique Hector, long jump; Latheria Lewis, shot put; Ashley Bryd, triple jump; and Mildred Rachel 55-meter hurdles. Naquanza Alfred, Joyce Gardner, Rae'ven Richards and Sharey Staton won the women distance medley, and Felicia Jeffers won the 800-meter run. Dominique Ward won the 200-meter dash, and Tierra Boyd, Porsha Buckner, Jennifer Lawson and Dominique Ward won 4 by 400 meter relay.

Lavante Young

Freshman Flying Tiger soars to OVC honor

Freshman Buford Williams

Side Tracks

Tigers lose to OVC's top team

The men's basketball team (9-13, 4-4 OVC) fell to the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles (12-7, 7-1 OVC) 71-50 to conclude a four game Ohio Valley Conference road trip, Saturday, Jan. 29.

Junior forward Eric King led TSU with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Senior center Rod Flowers and junior guard Wayne Arnold each had eight points.

Junior guard Milone Clark scored 19 points for an Eagle team that was 48 percent from the field. The Tigers return to action with a road trip to Eastern Illinois Thursday, Feb. 10.

Women's hoops lose at Tech

The Lady Tigers (5-14, 2-6) dropped a 69-48 battle to Tennessee Tech (14-5, 7-1 OVC) Saturday, Jan. 29.

Tech junior forward Emily Christian posted 20 points and nine rebounds and sophomore guard Kendall Cavin scored 19 points and seven rebounds.

TSU's junior guard/forward Leslie Dean led the way for the Tigers with 14 points and senior forward/center Kendra Bailey added 10 points.

Tiger Briefs



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Senior forward Eric King was the only Tiger to score in double-figures at Tennessee Tech.

The Lady Tigers return to action with the men at Eastern Illinois, Thursday, Feb. 10.

Compiled by Eddie R. Cole Jr.

Tiger Trivia:

What Tennessee State University basketball player had a 14-year professional career where he averaged 15.8 points per game for the Syracuse Nationals, Los Angeles Lakers and New York Knicks?

See answer at tsumeter.com.

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