

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY'S THE METER

THE MEASURE OF STUDENT OPINION AND SENTIMENT

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April 11, 2005

Volume 55
Issue 23



AKAs want more scholarships and better health care for blacks in Tenn.

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Tarantino's latest film takes action to a new level.

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Freshman leads lady golf team's roster.

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Blue and
White Game
Blue 21
White 7

Boyd Hall image improves

By Pharren Lowther,
Stanley Johnson and
Antonio Weatherly
Staff Writers

Residents who have lived in Boyd Hall in past years may notice a difference in the dormitory since new dorm director Shawn Modena has taken over this year.

The addition of cameras cut down on drug sales and unauthorized visitation and, more importantly, the deplorable image of Boyd Hall is being erased to both residents or passersby.

"I hated walking past Boyd Hall," said Tomika Lovelady, a senior from Atlanta majoring in communications, referring to the obscenities residents sometimes hurled from the front stoop at females who walked by. "It was totally disrespectful."

Many who never stayed in Boyd say the major change is the relocation of Duane Smith to Shawn Modena this past fall.



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

"The Stoop." Students at Tennessee State University sit on the front porch of Boyd Hall. Notorious for resident complaints, Boyd has received numerous improvements since the residence hall dorm director switched from Duane Smith to Shawn Modena this past fall.

SEC results postponed

By Kamaria Mack and
Kirsten Watkins
Campus News Editor and
A&E writer

Omission of a candidates' names forced the Tennessee State University Student Election Committee to extend student voting and throw out previously cast ballots.

On April 7, one hour after voting booths opened at 4 p.m., TSU student Daria Evans informed representative-at-large candidate Bryan Howard that his name was not printed on the ballot.

"I was trying to vote for Bryan Howard when I noticed that his name was not on the ballot," said Evans, a sophomore from Albany, Ga. who is majoring in physical

therapy. "I immediately used my text messaging to tell him of the omission."

After being notified, Howard told his friend Philip Howard to check on the status, and Philip notified SEC members of the discrepancy.

"There was a discrepancy between Dean Myles and the company that printed the ballot, at which point we don't know who was responsible for the error," said SEC Chairperson Adeniyi Bakare. "Due to the error, one candidate's name was left off the ballot. We discovered the problem and immediately closed down the polls in order to be fair."

Student Activities Director Ronald Myles said that he did not double check the

See "Voting" on page 3

Student seeks success with 'Rumors'

By Gregory Brand Jr
Senior Visuals Editor

Amid the changing landscape of urban music, one Tennessee State University student aims to stake his claim in the sea of artists claiming to "keep it real." Releasing his third full studio album since he began at TSU in 2001, Skripture seeks a place on hip-hop's main stage with his new album *Rumors*.

The album arrives just as Skripture, real name Mike Foy, returns to TSU after a semester off working for the Disney

See "Artist" on page 8

Campus News

Previous Boyd Hall residents don't enjoy new director

Continued from page 1

Smith, also known as Smitty. However, only three out of 25 students who live in Boyd said in a recent informal survey they enjoy their stay more now than they did last year, and many of them had good things to say about Smith.

"Smitty had a connection with us," said Steve Nix, a junior from Clarksville majoring in engineering. "Yes, some of the things were illegal, such as paid visitation and getting "caught up" (referring to smoking in the room and not getting a violation), but it really helped us out in the long run and subsequently kept us from being kicked out of school."

Prior to the 2004-05 school year, Smith was removed as dorm director of Boyd Hall and was replaced by Modena to cut down on, if not eliminate, rule violations being ignored. Now, residents say, they don't get a break on breaking rules. Smith now serves as assistant director of the Ford Residential Complex but was unavailable to comment.

"We had gotten too many complaints about Boyd," said Peggy Earnest, dean of students and director of housing, in a Meter article dated Sept. 13, 2004. "In the past I wasn't so inclined to speak about the situation at Boyd, but the changes have given Boyd a new face."

"This is a disgrace how they just fired Smitty like that," said Myron Crumple Jackson a senior from Nashville majoring in art. "But most students knew he was about to get fired last year when every weekend he would throw barbecues and cookouts. Mr. Smith, being so cool with the students, told us, "Hey they're cracking down hard on the campus directors."

Jackson, who has been living in Boyd since his freshman year, said he feels that this is his worse year living there.

Others say Boyd was remodeled because two years ago the Student Government Association challenged President James A. Hefner to spend one weekend in Boyd. Hefner would be forced to use the public bathrooms, forced to sleep in rooms where the air-conditioning was broken and forced to smell some kind of smoke in the halls and would not be able to tell from where it was coming because residents said the



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

The lobby in Boyd Hall has received several upgrades this academic school year, featuring a big screen television, since Shawn Modena took charge as the dorm director.

students there two years ago were relentless in their rule-breaking and sneakiness.

Hefner has not accepted the offer and was asked to do it again this year, to which he responded, "In the springtime I'll be ready!" So, if he were to stay there now, he would see a different Boyd than the one he was invited to visit before.

Assistant dorm director Julius Proctor has been attending TSU since 1992 and was appointed by Earnest to be the assistant director. Proctor was also the assistant director of Hale Hall for four years. He declined to comment on the dormitory's namesake and his own role in helping to clean up Boyd.

Although the dormitory has not been fully renovated, there were many steps taken to change the staff and image of Boyd.

"We have added new lounge furniture, a 55-inch widescreen television, and separated the kitchen and barbershop facilities," Modena said. "The students are doing a much better job of keeping their living areas clean; however, we still have some problems with students dumping trash in the bathrooms."

Modena said he plans to repaint the interior of Boyd during the summer session along with replacing the old baseboards.

"I only moved out of Boyd because I wanted my own space," said Jamar Markus, a senior from Detroit majoring in elementary education. "When I lived there, the bathrooms were never clean."

Modena, assisted by Student Affairs Vice President Thomas Martin and Earnest, devised a plan to change the direction and reputation of Boyd. Martin said in the fall that he wanted improving Boyd to be one of his accomplishments in his final semester before a May 31 planned retirement.

"We did a lot to make Boyd Hall more comfortable for students and parents," said Modena. "A new lobby sitting area was added as well as the conversion of what once was a storage area into a fully-operable dorm director office and conference area for parents. Coach (Jake) Cabell even donated weights and exercise equipment from Kean Hall so students would have an option to exercise without leaving the dormitory." •

Events Calendar

April 12
Lorette Claiborne
(Her Story) Poag
Aud.
1 p.m.

April 13
"WTST Live"
FPCC
Courtyard 11:30
a.m.

"The Fight
Amongst Ours"
Seminar
Rm 210
6 p.m.

Corrections

The Meter regrets errors and continuously strives to improve.

Campus News

Fewer students visit Career Center

By Brandi Leavell
Staff Writer

Tennessee State University's Career Center has seen a decrease in the number of students who visit the center for assistance in landing a job and developing a career.

The center provides comprehensive services for TSU students and alumni to help in career planning and getting good jobs. The center, which is located in suite 304 of the Floyd-Payne Campus Center, has the Student Employment/Job Location and Development (JLD) program that assists 600 students, but counselors say there is still room for more students.

"I have never heard of the Career Center," said Brad Hand, a freshman from Nashville with an undecided major. "I never knew we had a Career Center on campus."

Katasia N. Jordan, a sophomore from Memphis majoring in speech communication and theatre said that, while she is aware of the Career Center, she has many reasons for not visiting it.

Among the reasons for Jordan and others not visiting the center, is either they are too busy, have too much homework, are unaware of it or just do not have a reason to go.

"I have only been to the Career Center for work study," Jordan said. "I do not know Tennessee State University's Career Center has seen a decrease in the number of students who visit the center for assistance in landing a job and developing a career."

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"I have only been to the Career Center for work study," Jordan said. "I do not know why I need to go."

Students who have not visited the career center are also more likely not to have heard about the Tiger Trak program.

Tiger Trak is an Internet source where TSU students and alumni can post their resumes, cover letters and transcripts so possible employers can access their information. Tiger Trak is similar to Monster Trak but only TSU students and alumni have access to post their resumes on Tiger Trak.

"I am actually on Tiger Trak," said Jeremy Daves, a senior from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. majoring in speech communication and theatre. "I have posted my resume, cover letter and transcripts on there."

Lora Springer, a counselor in the

Career Center, said she thinks the reason students are not focused on getting a job is they are too busy doing schoolwork. Springer also said she wants to help students get jobs, but students have to take action first and set up appointments to meet with her.

"If a student waits two to four weeks prior to graduation, most companies would have hired candidates," Springer said.

Springer and faculty work together to allocate class times to speak to students on career planning, such as resumes and networking skills. Springer said resumes should be updated every three to six months and the average time for companies to hire students is usually two to four weeks.

"Students can e-mail me a copy of their resume to be critiqued," Springer said. "My contact information and e-mail is provided on the TSU home page."

There are three remaining career seminars this semester scheduled for April 12 in Tampa, Fla., April 14 in Atlanta and April 19 in Boston.

Voting rescheduled, greek week almost postponed

Continued from page 1

the printing company. He said they were correct when he sent the ballots to the company.

"The printing company made the mistake," Myles said. "I take the blame for not checking."

At the time that Dean Myles officially closed the polls in Hale Hall where there were 20 students waiting to vote, including students who were planning to leaving for weekend trips but wanted to cast a vote before departing.

"The error on the ballot was a huge inconvenience to myself, as well as the student body as a whole," said Candace Witt, a sophomore from Nashville, who is majoring in business administration. "We should not have to pay for the mistakes of the administration."

The SEC is comprised of 49 members whose sole objective is to conduct student elections as directed by the Student Government Association House of Delegates, according to the 2004-05 Student Handbook.



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Students line up in the FPCC to vote last Friday due to the unexpected poll closing on Thursday.

Myles originally rescheduled voting for 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, but later extended times to 9:30 to 5:30 on Monday. According to the 2004-05 Student Handbook, two full days of voting must occur for the SEC to be in accordance with the SEC constitution.

As a result of the rescheduling, the

announcement of votes was delayed from its annual time at 9 p.m. during the American Cancer Society Relay for Life walk-a-thon to Monday at 7 p.m. in the courtyard.

The voting rescheduling prompted some students to ask Myles to postpone the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. week because presidential candidate Josef Robinson is a member of the fraternity. The students thought the festivities of their week may influence some voters to vote for Robinson.

Robinson said Myles told him he was considering postponing the fraternity's week until Tuesday.

"It would be unfair to let activities go on that could possibly compromise the election process. Josef (Robinson) is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., so the correlation should be obvious. This gives him an advantage against the other candidates," Myles said.

Robinson, who is also the president of the Pan-hellenic organization, then asked SGA President Chauncey Davis to

talk with Myles. Instead, she went to Vice President of Student Affairs Thomas Martin to resolve the issue.

"I know how much work time and money that goes into planning week events," Davis said. "I think that student affairs would have performed a disservice, regardless of whose week it is. It just wasn't fair."

As a result of Davis' understanding, she Barkare, Myles, Martin and Associate Vice President Dorothy Lockridge had a meeting a decided Alpha week would continue as planned.

"I attend their annual Luau and pajama party every year," said Shaylina Hewitt, a senior from Lansing, Mich. who is majoring in graphic art design. "I would have been upset if it was postponed."

Eddie R. Cole Jr. and Ashley Northington contributed to this report.

Campus News

AKAs aim for more scholarships, health care

By **Chartese Benton**
Staff Writer

The Alpha Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. at Tennessee State University, recently told state government leaders that getting more lottery scholarships and better health care are among the major agenda items facing Black Tennesseans.

Members of the sorority visited Capitol Hill on March 15 and said they want to make TSU's campus aware of healthcare issues and promote economic empowerment in Tennessee by leveling the lottery scholarship playing field with other states.

"They are only catering to the best and the brightest because they feel that it is so important to keep them in the state," said Rep. Tommie Brown of District 28 in Hamilton. "But it is the average people who run this country and the average people who need this money."

Brown said she is extremely passionate about education and addressed the body about Tennessee's low rates of higher education and the restrictions that lottery scholarships may be placing on education. To qualify for this \$3,000 a year scholarship a high school graduate must have scored a 21 on the ACT, a 980 on the SAT, or graduate with at least a 3.0 grade point average according to the Tennessee Education Lottery

Corporations 2004 Report.

"I know how the scholarship works in Georgia, paying full tuition, and it is much more effective in my opinion," said April Thomas, a senior from Albany, Ga. majoring in accounting, who serves as president of the Alpha Psi Chapter. "I believe that once the funds increase the program will as well, but in the interim we, as a community, need to look to our legislators."

CEO of the Tennessee Lottery, Rebecca Paul, spoke about the progression of the state's lottery scholarship. She recognized and acknowledged the problems and flaws, such as not being able to take on full tuition costs. But she insisted the program would grow as time went on and those flaws were due to the newness of the program.

The lottery has received more than \$863,425,000 in gross ticket sales, raised over \$246 million for education, and has assisted 36,672 students who used lottery-funded scholarships and grants to attend higher education institutions in the state during the fall of 2004, according to the Tennessee Student Assistance Corp.

"I just raise the money," Paul said. "The people who pass legislation on the distribution of those funds are your senators and representatives."

The director of legislation for the governor of Tennessee, Mary Freeman, who is also a member of AKA and joined through the Alpha Psi chapter, was recog-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHEENA HAMILTON

Ariel Flemming, Linda Spears, Sheena Hamilton, April Thomas, Leah Dupree and Cameron Henderson all joined Rep. Barbara Cooper (center) in gaining more lottery scholarships and better health care for Blacks.

nized for being the first African-American to hold this position. She sees all legislation passing through that office and she addressed health care issues dealing with minority and discrimination on all levels.

"In my opinion AKA Day was addressing service to all mankind," said Cameron Henderson, a sophomore from Memphis majoring in graphic design. "We're trying to aid in awareness and action on the main issues that are affecting our Black communities."

Henderson serves as the connections committee chairperson of the Alpha Psi Chapter and is committed to making the campus aware of health care issues during the month of April, which is National Minority Health and Health Disparities Month.

"Memphis has the highest infant mortality rate in the country," said Lois Deberry who serves as the representative of District 91 in Shelby County. "...If that doesn't move you, nothing will."

Statistics show Memphis ranks worst in infant mortality rates among the nation's 60 largest cities and several zip codes' rates are higher than some third world countries. When the last statistical data was collected in 2002 there were 202 babies who died before living one full year.

Barbara Cooper, the representative of District 86 in Shelby County, who is

also a member of AKA and a graduate of TSU, addressed the forum on issues concerning economic empowerment and enriching the Black family.

She also invited all community members to the Fourth Annual Cooper-Jones Commemorative Conference sponsored by Ulysses Jones, Jr. who serves as the representative of District 98 in Memphis. This conference is to be a series of discussions on issues concerning Tennessee's 104th General Assembly legislation.

"I think what the AKAs are doing is commendable" said Albert Pleifer, a senior from St. Louis majoring in sports science. "They are not sitting on their hands. It's great they are thinking of the future of the younger generation."•

Sheena Hamilton contributed to this story.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHEENA HAMILTON

Alpha Psi chapter members Ariel Flemming, Leah Dupree, Cameron Henderson, April Thomas, and Sheena Hamilton at Capitol Hill on March 15.

Please read the final issue of *The Meter* for coverage on President-select Melvin Johnson and a special edition dedicated to President James A. Hefner

Forum

What We Think

SEC Week not what most had in mind

For everybody involved from the nomination convention, the Miss Tennessee State University pageant, to the thrown out votes, Student Election week has been eventful and the candidates took us for a ride that was typified by noble and inspiring highs and disappointing and all too typical lows. The nomination convention set the pace for the week as it proved how passionate the candidates were about their platforms, how organized their campaigns were, and if the nominated candidates were prepared for the offices in which they were running.

It almost goes without saying that college politics are going to be more personal than a national, state, or even city-wide election. For one, the candidates are almost always going to have some knowledge of each other prior to the campaigning. Whether they took a class together, stayed across the hall from each other, or just know each other through mutual acquaintances there is very rarely more than six degrees of separation between candidates. Perhaps this is on some level a cause of some of the contention that we witnessed last week.

The supposed purpose of campaigning during SEC week is to win an office which they feel that they can effectively uphold in representing students' interest. This week, the behavior exhibited by some of the candidates and their respective camps was poor and dishonorable. The campus of TSU has, once again, stooped to a level that we

have come to expect. This is particularly sad because these tactics no longer surprise or disgust the student body. Each candidate should have remembered that their campaign's and the members of their camps are a representation of themselves, so even those who may have been triumphant in a negative campaign have in effect already tainted their position. While oftentimes the students turn SEC elections into popularity contest, there were individuals who have a deep desire to serve the student body in these positions and they therefore exhibited the true spirit of TSU in their campaigns.

Miss TSU candidate Tomeika Dobson showed this true essence of a passionate campaigning spirit during *The Meter's* interview. When asked what separated her from the other candidates, she said that all of the other candidates were very qualified. She understood that the ultimate decision was to be made by the student body and the only campaign technique she needed was to be herself. Likewise all three of the presidential candidates displayed what appeared to be an honest respect and admiration for each other. Unfortunately situations arose that brought out the worse in the student body and candidates. At the end of the week, SEC and Dean Ronald Myles did not review the ballot sheets before setting up the polls on

Thursday afternoon. As if campaigns were not competitive enough and subject of numerous innuendos, the misprinted ballots only added fuel to the

already heated battles among candidates. The decision to throw out the votes was the only fair solution to the problem. We were disappointed the SEC results could have not been read at Relay for Life, like many had expected.

Every year *The Meter* staff interviews candidates for SGA positions, and every year we do our best to help the student body make an informed decision about who they want to represent them by giving candidates our endorsement. Yet every year something else happens. Every year individuals in certain campaigns attempt to discredit *The Meter* by making the false, unfounded, and rash assumptions that our endorsements are based off of anything but what the candidates presented to us during their interview.

So the endorsements made are merely reflections of what the candidates presented to us during their interviews. This, however, should only serve as only one aspect of the decision-making process. In addition to the debates for the presidential position and the pageant for the crown of Miss TSU, students are given ample to meet the candidates running for positions and make the right choice for who they think represents them best.

Yet just as the individuals elected should represent the best qualities of the student body, likewise the misinformation, pettiness, and rumors revealed the ugly negative side of the TSU student body.

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 to 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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Forum

New SEC week yields same old results



**Ashley
Northington**
Editor in Chief

Every year *The Meter* endorses candidates for the Student Government Association's top three posts: SGA president, vice-president, and Miss Tennessee State University. While the endorsements occur yearly, there are people who are dissatisfied with the results. Last year, we chose to endorse Tolaison Johnson, Chauncey Davis, and Rodriguez Johnson for Miss TSU, SGA president and vice president, respectively. All three of our choices happened to belong to Pan-hellenic council organizations: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. When we asked then vice presidential candidate Johnson about why members of Greek lettered organizations always

run for top posts he said people who are members of fraternities and sororities want to be community leaders and that it was natural for the same types of people to run for campus leadership posts. I agreed. We thought his answer was superb, and as a result he received our endorsement.

When the paper came out the Monday marking Student Election Commission Week endorsements were received without incident. This year was different. As Johnson theorized, the same types of people ran for office this year: people who also happened to be members of Greek lettered organizations. *The Meter* chose to endorse Mirica A. Stevens and Josef Robinson for the Miss TSU and SGA President posts. The two happen to belong to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

When the paper came out, the stu-

dent center went wild. At 11:30 a.m. during *The Meter's* weekly Monday editorial board meeting phone calls were made to members of the editorial board alleging a Kappa and Delta meeting to protest the endorsements and me. Why had I been singled out? I assumed it was because I was the editor-in-chief of the newspaper who endorsed the unfavored individuals. I wondered why any members of DST would have any stake in who was endorsed. By 3 p.m. I was visited by SGA vice presidential candidate Brenda Carter who informed me she was upset about the endorsements published in the *What We Think* section of the paper. I understood her concern and sympathized with her.

What didn't make sense to me then and still doesn't make sense to me now is a question surrounding Greeks in leadership roles. Why does it seem as if everything at TSU has to revolve around people who are members of different organi-

zations, especially those belonging to Greek lettered organizations? Why do they seem to have precedence over everything else? SEC week is supposed to be about individuals who wish to make a difference, not about what organizations in which they belong.

As Robinson said last year, the same types of people run for office because they want to be leaders, even if it means the same people are apart of everything. He is right, this typically happens because there is only a small group of people who want to truly make a difference at the university. Our students should try to become more involved, but they don't. However, this business of spreading rumors and talks of holding asinine meetings is ridiculous to the point of incredulously.

The bottom line is this: *The Meter* cannot please everyone. We have only one responsibility and that is to accurately report the highlights and lowlights of the TSU community. •

From
Where
I
Sit

Campaign week woes foster 'SUS'pect behavior



Meridith Miller
A&E Editor

On Sun., April 3 the Student Election Commission began SEC week with the nomination convention introducing the 2005 candidates for Student Government Association president, vice president, Miss Tennessee State University, and all other representatives. Though SEC week always proves to be full of student activity and productivity, this year's events seemed somewhat overshadowed by the actions of certain individuals who chose to let organizational affiliations take precedent over the candidates and take the voting system, one of democracy and justice, into their own hands.

It is a known fact that individuals who run for SGA positions are leaders in other on-campus organizations. This year in particular, two of the presidential candidates William Busch and Josef Robinson both happen to be members of Greek letter organizations. Problems

arose when two separate organizations let their personal issues impact the livelihood of their respective candidates, they not only ruin the experience for the individuals running, they also remove all possibility of the student body being able to make informed, unbiased opinions on who they feel is the best candidate. When *The Meter* endorsed Robinson for the presidential position, members of Busch's organization were rightfully upset. I say rightfully because it is only natural for them to want Busch to win the endorsement; not only because Busch is their brother, but because Busch is more than capable to fill the position. But the fact remains that Robinson was chosen by *The Meter* editorial board to be the better candidate. Just one year ago, Rodriguez Johnson, Busch's fraternity brother was chosen over Jaron Jackson, Robinson's fraternity brother as the better candidate for SGA vice president. You win some, you lose some. It's okay to be disappointed in or in disagreement with who likes what candidate. What is absolutely NOT okay is when that disagreement leads to cheat-

ing or sabotage of the voting process.

When students went to the campus center to vote on Fri., April 8, a freshman member of Robinson's campaign, who wishes to remain anonymous, claims he was approached by current SGA Vice President Johnson in an attempt to persuade him to vote for Busch. Though it is unfortunate that Johnson was unaware that the student was a member of Robinson's campaign and could not move on to a student with no campaign affiliation who would be less likely to tell, the incident raises questions of integrity due to the fact that all campaigning was to end at 12 p.m. on Thurs., April 7. Common sense says it's smart to ask people to vote for the candidate you endorse; that's campaigning. SEC rules say it's illegal to do so after 12 p.m. on Thursday; that's cheating. Common sense says not to disobey SEC rules at the polls; that's stupid. Never is it okay to demean one candidate to persuade a student to vote for another. Busch, Robinson and Troy Smith are all dedicated, passionate and extraordinary candidates who the student body would be lucky to have leading SGA. Their

abilities can and should speak for themselves. And while one can assume members of all three campaigns could be participating in less than admirable behavior, I expect more from our beloved vice president. Manipulation is not an endeavor of excellence. As the leader of General Assembly, which represents all registered on-campus organizations, I would expect Johnson to exercise a superior level of integrity when dealing with the election process. Maybe I expect too much. I am, however, impressed with the actions of current SGA President Chauncey Davis and SEC Chair Adeniyi Bakare. Both of these individuals have demonstrated true leadership and impartiality in their efforts to wrong rights from technical ballot errors to outrageous requests to postpone an organization's week due to an error beyond its control (publicity for SEC week can come in the form of probate shows but definitely comes in the form of leadership pillars in the student center). The fact remains that dishonest actions, whether by individuals or groups, harms candidates, students, and makes a mockery of TSU's treasured SEC week traditions. •

Keepin'
it
Real

Arts & Entertainment

Spring film festival hits local theater

By Meridith M. Miller
A&E Editor

The Nashville Film Festival will be hosting its 35th annual festival April 14-21 at the Regal Green Hills 16 Cinemas.

The festival began taking contest entries in October of last year, and the categories for awards include those for feature film, short film, documentary, short program, music video, music video program, and PANEL. The Festival will also showcase the best independently produced animations, experimental works and videos by young filmmakers under 18 years old.

Meter Minute

New awards from the 2004 festival will also be awarded this year including the Best Music In A Feature Film award and the Impact of Music award. The Best Music award is given to the film's composer, music supervisor, director and producer for best use of music by original score, arrangement or song selection. The Impact award highlights the music that best demonstrates the effect of music on the human experience.

Each 35mm feature film is eligible for the Regal Cinemas/Nashville Film Festival Dreammaker Award. This award entitles the winning film to a week-long run in a Los Angeles Regal Cinema, and the



PHOTO COURTESY OF
NASHVILLEFILMFEST.COM

The flyer for the Nashville Film festival, which takes place April 14-21.

film also becomes eligible for an Academy Award.

Along with the eight-day schedule showcasing the 2005 entries, the Festival will also show film submissions from past festivals. Some other festivities include an opening night gala scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14, a party at Mafioza's Italian Restaurant at 9:30 p.m., Monday, April 18, an awards presentation at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, April 21, and shuttle tours of Nashville's downtown nightlife from 9 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, April 16.

Tickets to the festival went on sale March 24 and may be purchased by calling 1-800-965-4827 or visiting www.TicketWeb.com.



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

Lyfe Jennings

Lyfe 268-192- 5/5

Lyfe Jennings, a 26 year-old singer/songwriter/producer, pours out his heart and soul in over 15 tracks on his debut album, *Lyfe 268-192*.

Lyfe, a self-taught musician, was not always focused on his musical ability. He was recently released from a Toledo, Ohio prison where he spent 10 years behind bars before deciding to use his talent. While incarcerated, Lyfe (whose

real name is Chester Jennings) began to realize he could make a change after his release and he did not have to fall back into his life of crime.

Within two days after his emancipation, Lyfe put his plan into action and began recording a demo CD. The hard work eventually paid off and Jennings inked a deal at Columbia Records, home of Maxwell and Destiny's Child.

As he croons over his debut single, "Stick Up Kid", Lyfe speaks about a life of crime and how he felt forced to make the choices that would aid in his street survival. The follow-up single, "Must Be Nice", a track that focuses on how fortunate one can be with the love and support

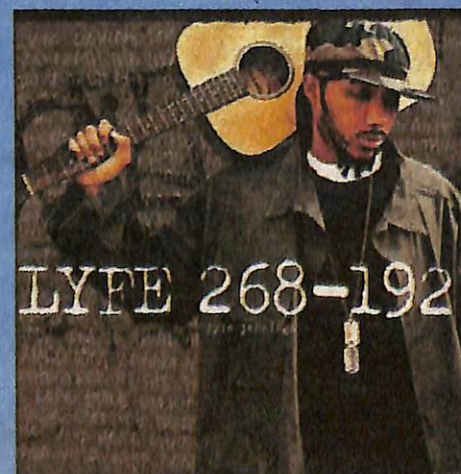


PHOTO COURTESY OF AWESOMEDJPRODUCTIONS.COM

Lyfe's 268-192 album cover

of a good mate, is unmistakably the stand-out track on the album. Other notable tracks include "26 Years, 17 Days", "Smile" and "She Got Kids."

The album, *Lyfe 268-192* (named after Jennings' inmate number), also touches delicate issues such as having the woman you love give you a sexually transmitted disease ("Cry") and honestly approaching a woman who has children from a past relationship ("She Got Kids"), while not forgetting to include the baby-mama who is just asking for too much ("Greedy").

Lyfe 268-192 is an album that never has to leave the disc changer. To sum up this ground-breaking debut in one phrase, it would have to be 'sincere and noteworthy'.

Take a look at the CD cover and you could guess that Jennings was a hip-hop artist. But once he opens his mouth and thumbs the first string of an acoustic guitar, you become drawn into the melodies.

Lyfe credits his passion for music now with his one-time residence in prison, "Deeper situations tend to lead to deeper music and prison was one of those deeper situations. Music gave me an opportunity to express emotions in an unemotional environment," according to his Web site www.2lyfe.com.

It is seldom that an artist comes around that can move you with the falsetto that Lyfe has and he does not have to look, dance, or sound like the typical

popular artist to gain a credible fan base. Fans should hope to be buying the eighth release from this amazing artist 10 years from now. The music is real, the lyrics are genuine, and if you have not pur-

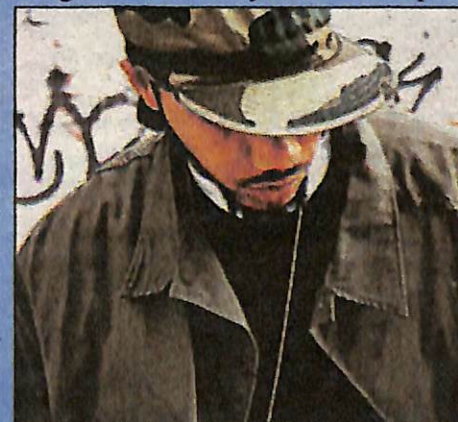


PHOTO COURTESY OF 2LYFE.COM

Lyfe Jennings, a self taught musician, sings about life's hard knocks.

chased this album yet, you are at an incredible disadvantage in the music game.

Kirsten D. Watkins

Read the last issue of *The Meter* to see what the editorial board's graduating seniors have to say in their last commentaries next week.

Arts & Entertainment



Sin City—A

The concentrated effort of motion picture brainchild, Quentin Tarantino, dynamic director Robert Rodriguez, and legendary writer Frank Miller have churned out a film that is nothing short of prolific. The film is *Sin City* and it has taken action/drama films to a whole new level.

The film is based on and populated by the characters in Frank Miller's hugely popular comic series with the same name. Though the series is sustained by a cult following it's themes about life, betrayal, sex, murder, death and of course, sin, are universal and have been placed into a media that can only make

the series more powerful.

The film tells its stories at neck-breaking speed and is, as expected, insanely violent. The film consists of a group of raw and gritty stories that interconnect the lives of the characters around one dangerous, big, and sin-filled city.

In Miller's world the prostitutes run their own section of town with their own rules, the politicians and cops are crooked criminals themselves and heroes often walk the line between light and dark as they attempt to survive in this dark reality. While most films soften the hard edges of their roots for the big screen, this film does the exact opposite. It fully embraces the happenings in this God-forsaken city and shows them in their purest clarity.

The difference between this film, those that are similar and the knockoffs that will follow is that this film approaches the story as a live action comic book. The characters are seen as real people in an extremely stylized world. With exaggerated weather effects and dramatic cutaway silhouette shots, the film becomes more than a violent crime drama—it becomes a rugged and artistic cinematic masterpiece.

The film starts its web of stories as Hartigan (Bruce Willis) is on the trail of a murderous pedophile that just happens to

be the son of one of the city's most powerful politicians. He has a young girl that Hartigan aims to rescue even as his own health and heart are about to fail him. He knows he is about to die but his will to save the girl is strong enough to push through the pain and save her.

The plot that follows the opening is random because at first glance the four stories seemingly have nothing to do with each other. This is not quite the deal since the viewer will quickly understand that the stories do overlap. As the story develops it becomes increasingly easier to spot similar locations and items and even characters from earlier altercations. This helps the story stay intact to deliver a strong cohesion for the movie.

Though this film showcases a huge cast with tons of star power, all of the participants perform well. Film standouts include Rosario Dawson as the hyper, sexy and tough Gail, Jessica Alba as the strong and tough Nancy, Benicio Del Toro as the despicable Jackie Boy and Clive Owen as the dark sided hero Dwight. Although these people are mentioned first, don't be fooled. All of the characters are on point offering heroic, creepy and even disgusting performances. These are most noted in performances by Devon Aoki and Elijah Wood.

The technology in the film is also top notch. It never cuts away or looks

unrealistic. The artist and directors do a great job to bring you into the world of the characters and doesn't let go until the last frame of the film.

The film honestly has no real weak points. The story never drags, the action is only punctuated by a good story and the plot, however intertwined, is interesting and solid.

Bottom Line: It's worth the price of admission and more.

Gregory Brand Jr.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPIEGEL.DE

Bruce Willis stars in Tarantino's *Sin City*.

Artists uses record execs, climate to produce music

Continued from page 1

Corporation. During the time spent in Florida, Skripture had an opportunity to meet music industry executives and producers that would allow him to gain more experience in the music that had become his passion.

"I love (hip-hop) music," Skripture said. "I've been working to get my music out there to the masses. I had to move to another level to get it there. I made a lot of connections (in Florida) and I learned a lot."

Upon returning to Nashville and TSU last fall, Skripture was welcomed by friends as well as a slew of untrue assumptions. Several rumors about where he was had began to circulate among the student body.

"When I got back people were shocked to see me," Skripture said. "I heard I had been shot, locked up, had to leave town and all kinds of mess."

Skripture said the climate was both therapeutic and inspirational in he

process of writing songs for his album.

"(The rumors) helped him get the concept for the album," said Faheem Goree, a senior from Washington D.C. majoring in speech communication. "He didn't really tell anyone where he was going when he left town. I even heard rumors of him being dead."

As all of the rumors surfaced, Skripture went into the studio in order to make some sense of it all. They provided the fuel for the material as well as the drive to make an album better than any he felt had done before. After months of effort the result was the new album.

"I like the album," said Kimberly Lester, a freshman from Chicago majoring in biology. "It's different and that's good. I get tired of everyone doing the same thing all the time. I bought it at the club and I love it."

The new long play is Skripture's attempt to make a mainstream name for himself as well as make money. All studio time, album production and general



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Skripture can also be heard on WTST radio.

distribution is being handled by the artist himself. "I was tired of dealing with other people regarding my career," Skripture said. "Labels wasn't checking for my style for real so I decided I was gonna take it."

Goree said, "In terms of production and money spent, this is his best album to date. It is very professional, not like a lot of independent artists out now."

He then decided to push the album on the streets and place a few on consignment in some record stores. Though there is new buzz, he still has to face the opinions of naysayers.

he is a real (emcee). Hip-hop is something you live and I just don't believe he lived it."

This album also stands as Skripture's most personal to date. On several tracks he speaks on the personal perspective and delivers material that focus on his personal experience.

The album has caught on in the urban music industry, local and abroad. The attention has come at such a rate that Skripture has to face thousands of online bootleggers.

"The bootlegging is kind of sad," Goree said. "It's hurting him because he's losing money he needs, but in terms of publicity is great because he's getting his name out there."

The bootlegging, however unethical, is being done on sites along side albums by platinum sellings hip-hop artists such as 50 Cent and Snoop Dogg.

"I think I finally have something that is ready for mainstream listeners," Skripture said.

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Sports

Softball split home double-header

Saturday, April 2.

The Tennessee State softball team (5-22, 1-8 OVC) displayed one of its better performances of the year in a double-header against cross-town rival Belmont Bruins (9-16) on Tuesday, March 29.

Belmont won the opener 11-3. Junior Kristina Blair pitched a two-hitter to lead the Lady Tigers to a 4-1 victory as fellow Tiger, sophomore Hollie Sanders, hit a two-run home run in the first inning. TSU had seven walks and four wild pitches to accompany the Bruins win.

Tigers win and lose against Lipscomb

The Lady Tigers posted another solid performance winning the first game of a double-header against the David Lipscomb Bison (15-14) 1-0 Thursday, March 31. Initially, the game was to be held at Lipscomb but was moved to TSU with Lipscomb functioning as the home team. Lipscomb came back to win the second game 7-3, opening the game with four runs.

TSU lost 9-1 against Ohio Valley Conference foe Southeast Missouri on

Tiger Briefs

Junior pitcher Kristina Blair allowed no earned runs in the Sunday, April 3 game as she led TSU to a 3-1 victory against SEMO. TSU grabbed a loss in the second game of the day. TSU

gained two runs in the bottom of the first inning but SEMO scored eight runs in the first inning on the way to win the game 14-0.

Based on reports from tsutigers.com and compiled by Shantana Collins



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Kristina Blair helped the Lady Tigers to a victory against SEMO.

Tennis swings in OVC play

The Tennessee State men (0-12, 0-8 OVC) and women's (0-12, 0-9 OVC) tennis teams both came up short in OVC play.

The Tigers and Lady Tigers both fell to Morehead State University and Eastern Kentucky University in hard fought matches on April 2-3. The Lady Tigers were defeated in matches against

MSU and ECU with a result of a 4-0 decision. The men's squad lost to MSU 7-0 and ECU 6-0.

Both teams are expected to travel to David Lipscomb for a match on Monday, April 11.

Based on reports from tsutigers.com and compiled by Dairanetta Spain



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

(From l. to r.) Raymond Jones, Brandon Cobb, LaDarrell Collier, Vaughn Evans, Matthew Patton, James Dickerson make up Tennessee State University's tennis team.

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Meter In Your Ear

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Thursday, April 14
6-8p.m.
Live with
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Eppse Hall
Tuesday, April 12
4-6p.m.
**The Thicky
Thick Girls**

Ford Residential Complex
Tuesday, April 19
7-9p.m.
Suga Buga & Freddie B

Sports

Golf teams 'tee' off season with new faces

By Shantana Collins
Sports Writer

The Tennessee State University golf teams are ushering in lower scores, along with a new coach and players as the 2005 spring season is under way.

The season started Feb. 27 and head women's coach Michael Seward said he is most impressed with the leadership and performance of players Jessica Nemnich, the team's leader with the lowest scoring average, and Leslie



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Freshman Latoya Moppins adds to the roster of the Lady Tigers golf team.

Scarborough. Head men's coach Catana Starks thinks, with the way things are going and the remaining tournaments left, the Tigers should be able to reach their ultimate goal, which is winning a championship.

Seward joined the TSU athletic department in fall of 2004. He is a graduate of the University of Montana, serves as assistant golf professional at Red Rhodes Golf Course, is a United States Golf Association member, and PGA level 2 Apprentice. Coach Seward said he enjoys being at TSU and is enjoying his experience.

"Everything's been going really good," Seward said. "It's been a good experience, I'm a new coach, we have a couple of new players, and we are all growing as a team."

New players include freshmen Mary Brigance from Memphis and Latoya Moppins from Clarksville. In contrast to the high school golf courses, collegiate golf is much longer but Seward thinks this is just a growing pain and the team is getting better each day.

So far the Lady Tigers have competed in the Centenary Ladies Spring Invitational, The MSU (Murray State University) Big River Telephone Lady Racer Classic, and The Butler Spring Invitational in which the team posted

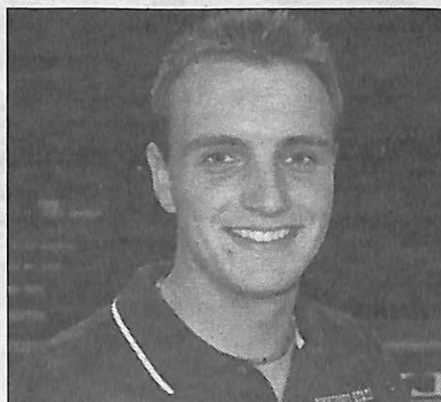


PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Robert Dinwiddie led the Tigers golf team during the Second Annual Samford Intercollegiate.

solid showings in each.

"Everyone is working hard and improving their game," Seward said. "This has just been fulfilling and everyone is working hard individually; I'm so excited."

The Tigers' men's golf team started off its season at the Second Annual Samford Intercollegiate, where they finished fourth place in an event comprised of 13 teams. Senior Robert Dinwiddie led the Tigers with a four under par 212 in the 54 hole tournament.

The Tigers also competed in the ECU Bradford Creek Intercollegiate and the Jacksonville State Grub Mart Intercollegiate. Both tournaments were ruined with rain, but as a result of players Dinwiddie, freshman Lawrence Larson, junior Phillip Watkins, and senior Jordan Roberts performances, TSU finished toward the top.

"The season is coming along very well," Starks said. "As a team, scores are much lower; things are going really well."

The Ohio Valley Conference championships are scheduled for April 18 in Decatur, Ala.

Tiger Trivia

What season did the TSU men's basketball team have its only undefeated season?

See tsumeter.com for answer.

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