



This student is working daily on her TSU legacy.

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"Bro Man" from Martin sitcom gave TSU some laughs and advice.

Page 11



After missing most of last season, this Tiger will miss this season as well.

Page 15

Student takes stand

By Marshall A. Latimore
Copy Editor/Opinions Editor

Following the shooting of Marcus Allen Smith, a TSU student who was shot in the neck by an off-duty Tennessee state trooper during a scuffle at the Dillard's department store at Hickory Hollow Mall in Antioch on Sept. 28, one student said she has had enough.

Ashley Milton, a senior speech communications major from Montgomery, Ala., said she is in the process of organizing a protest for Smith, whom she said was treated unfairly.

"Marcus doesn't have a voice right now," Milton said, while challenging other students to take action. "If we at TSU say that we're one, then we should come together and speak up for Marcus."

Milton said her intentions are not to excuse Smith's alleged actions, but she did feel that Tennessee state trooper Aussie Thaxter's actions that day were a bit excessive.

Thaxter, who had ordered Smith to halt



PHOTO PROVIDED BY METRO-NASHVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Marcus Allen Smith

when the student fled the store carrying several designer shirts, fired his state-issued gun once into Smith's red Plymouth Breeze after unsuccessfully reaching through the open car door to turn-off the ignition, according to Sept. 29 media releases from Metro Nashville-Davidson County Police Department.

After Smith was hit in his neck, Thaxter fell to the pavement and Smith's car continued on, entering the parking lot of Region's Bank and crashing into the back of the building. A Metro Police officer who was in the mall rushed to the scene and immediately radioed an ambulance, the releases stated.

"Yeah, what he did was wrong," Milton said. "And, no I don't condone him stealing. If he did, then authoritative measures should

See "Student" on page 7

TSU, local colleges share 'playing field'

By Itoro Umontuen
Business Reporter

Four TSU students will be competing in the Fifth Third Bank Stock Market Challenge at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel on Monday, Oct. 9 at 11:30 a.m.

Seniors Ayodeji Olojo and William F. Busch III, and juniors Fredrica Piphus and Jerry Johnson will be participating.

The students will be representing TSU in competition against Belmont, David Lipscomb, Tennessee Technical and Vanderbilt universities in a simulated stock market atmosphere sponsored by Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee, an organization whose purpose is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, business, and economics to improve the quality of their lives, according to janash.com.

The four students will simulate a Wall Street session of trading fictitious stocks. The team will compete for prizes, while raising money for Junior Achievement's economic

See "Team" on page 9

HOPE retention rates concern state officials

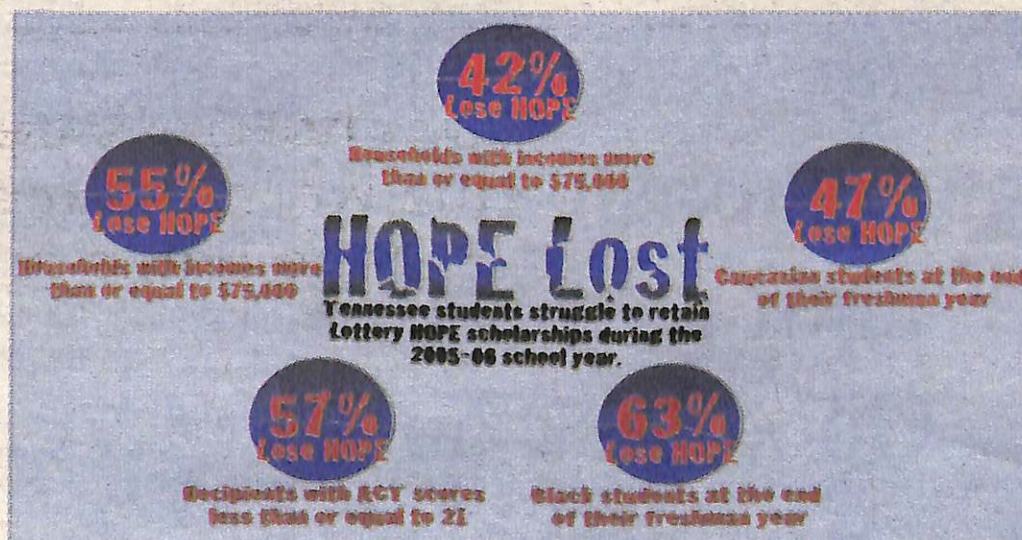
By Brian C. Browley
Senior Staff Reporter

State government and education officials are concerned about the retention of the Tennessee Lottery's HOPE scholarships among African-American students and students of low-income families.

Black scholarship recipients and those from lower income families retain their scholarship in lower numbers than whites and higher income families, according to the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship's Annual Report for 2005-06.

The report stated that 5,771 recipients of

See "More than" on page 8



GRAPHIC DESIGNED BY MARSHALL A. LATIMORE



Student starts early on legacy

By Keith Richardson
Staff Reporter

Carroll Wesson said she is more than just an honor student with a long list of activities.

Sure, she is heavily involved on campus as a loyal member of both the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBG) and the Phi Eta Sigma National Freshmen Honor Society, all while holding a 3.71 cumulative grade point average.

But, Wesson, a sophomore psychology major from Jackson, Tenn., said her aspirations are to give back to TSU and help the university's presence be known nationally. She explained that it is importance for students to realize the need to build on university's legacy and give the campus a more positive insight.

Wesson said she originally came to TSU during the summers of 2002 and 2003 for a program for minority engineers.

Wesson joined several other high school juniors and seniors at the Minority Introduction to Engineering (MITE) program, which is an intensive two-week summer academic workshop designed to introduce minority high school students to the engineering profession.

"Initially, I wanted to do engineering," Wesson said. "When I actually came to TSU, I changed my major to psychology."

Wesson said she chose TSU because of all the colleges she toured, TSU made her feel right at home.

Glad that she made the right choice, Wesson said the campus was beautiful and the faculty is nice.

Wesson was also selected Miss Honors 2006-07 by her peers in the University Honors Program last spring.

Sandra Holt, director of the University Honors Program, said Wesson has proved in a very short time that she is one of the best Miss Honors

the program has ever had.

"Carroll stayed in touch with me all summer to make sure she was well-prepared for the job," Holt said. "She is self-assured, well spoken, and not afraid to ask questions. This classy lady knows exactly who she is."

Chanda Ford, a senior speech communication and theatre major from S t

Petersburg, Fla., said, "I think Carroll is going to do a good job representing the honors programs. She is really sweet and down to earth."

Wesson lives by the University Honors Program's motto, "Strive to make excellence a way of life." Wesson said that applying this motto to her everyday life helps her become closer to her dreams of becoming a successful industry or consumer psychologist.

Student Achiever



Events Calendar

Monday	Thursday
SGA General Assembly FPCC Rm. 210 6p.m.	Haunted House Health Fair Kean Rm. 040 11a.m.
GSA Concessions AWC 4:30p.m.	Friday Pep Rally Noon
Tuesday Powder Puff Football Kean Hall 7p.m.	Saturday Biker's Classic TSU vs. Tennessee Tech LP Field 6 p.m.
Wednesday SGA Leadership Seminar FPCC Rm. 210 7p.m.	

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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. Timeliness and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

a) All contributions must be typed and sent by e-mail.

b) Opinions and letters should not exceed 400 words.

c) The Meter reserves the right to reject letters, articles, or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

3-day weather forecast

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Oct 9	Oct 10	Oct 11
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered T-Storms
81°/59°	82°/65°	77°/52°



source:weather.com

The Meter will not publish again until Oct. 23. Good luck on midterms.

Sororities return from year-long hiatus

Seminars, events enlightening campus

By Cara Anthony
News Editor

TSU's chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. have both hosted its first events of the fall.

Both chapters are coming off of a one-year sanction.

The Alpha Psi chapter of AKA held its Beauty Boot Camp and an Old School Funk Fest, while the Alpha Chi chapter of DST put on the first installment of its Epitome of a Woman seminar series.

The Beauty Boot Camp was held on Wednesday, Sept. 20 and the Old School Funk Fest was held on Friday, Oct. 6.

Ashlee Brooks, Alpha Psi president, said the camp, which featured three guest speakers, had a three-point purpose.

Brooks said the camp was targeted at educating and positively affecting the character of freshman women in regards to behavior, attitude, professionalism, and perception as well as reiterating the importance of internal and external beauty and to help freshman women maintain a progressive interest in college and professional life.

"It went over very well," said Brooks, a senior accounting major from Memphis.

She added that the Funk Fest, a couples' dance-off competition, had 51 couples participate and about 100 - 150 people attend. The winning paired-couple won \$100 for dancing for five and a half consecutive hours.

The Epitome of a Woman seminar was held on Wednesday, Sept. 27. Ericka Burnett, president of Alpha Chi, did not return phone calls to *The Meter* after several attempts to discuss the chapter's seminar and upcoming events, post the one-year sanction.

The sanction was an abbreviation of a lifted three-year sanction issued in Oct. 2005 by the university. At the time of the

suspension, reasons for the three-year sanctions of both sororities were not disclosed.

However, in the Nov. 3, 2005 issue of *The Meter*, Ronald Myles, director of student activities, confirmed that there were improper activities at an off-campus event on Oct. 6, 2005. Myles did not specify at the time whether or not the off-campus conflict carried over on to campus.

Fall 2005 Alpha Psi officials said the initial three-year punishments were handed down after an incident at a Greek mixer during Skee-Phi Week, put on by Alpha Psi and TSU's Beta Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., at the Red Carpet Lounge located at 1719 West End Ave.

Alpha Chi appealed the initial three-year sanction, which was eventually reduced and has since been lifted for both chapters.

Brooks said the sanctions were lifted in August. However, she said that all off-campus activities are still suspended until further notice.

"As a part of the original sanction,

off-campus sponsorship of activities are still prohibited, but we can now sponsor on-campus activities," Brooks said, noting that she is unsure of whether or not the chapter will have an intake this fall.

Ronald Myles, director of student activities, said, "(Both sororities) are active on the yard (and) able to do intake. Does it mean they will have (intake)? No."

Brooks said that Alpha Psi will use the proceeds from the Old School Funk Fest for the chapter's upcoming Mr. Ivy Scholarship Pageant on Wednesday, Nov. 8 in Kean Hall at 7 p.m. She also said that the sorority wants to eradicate any misconceptions the student body may have about Greek organizations and initiate more student involvement on campus.

"We have a lot things planned for the semester," Brooks said. "We're about to do a lot of big things. We want to show what Greek organizations are about."

Editor Eddie R. Cole Jr. and Newsroom Manager DeShanee Miner contributed to this report.

TSU students take STAND for Darfur

By Taylon Terrell
Assistant News Editor

Nearly 15 people attended the first official meeting of TSU's chapter of Student Taking Action Now for Darfur (STAND) on Tuesday, Oct. 3, according to Kaila Thompson, the chapter's president.

Thompson, who also founded the TSU chapter, said the new service organization is a national anti-genocide coalition dedicated to raising relief funds as well as awareness to the genocide in the Darfur region of western Sudan, Africa.

Thompson came across STAND after viewing an MTV youth activism site that linked to the organization. Since then, she said she has been dedicated to raising awareness to TSU students and founded its own official chapter on Friday, Sept 1.

"I've been researching the genocide in Darfur since March and I decided that STAND is an organization that TSU, which is a service university, should take

part in," said Thompson, a sophomore nursing major from Nashville.

STAND was formed at Georgetown University in Washington in 2004, one year after the fighting broke out in Darfur, according to standnow.org. The student movement is now present on over 200 college, university, and high school campuses across the United States. There is also a national STAND movement in Canada.

The ongoing war, which has been going on since 2003, has claimed 400,000 lives and displaced about 2.5 million people, according to the Genocide Intervention Network. Thompson said that awareness at TSU is low. In efforts to change this, the TSU chapter will be participating in DarfurFast, a global initiative intended to make a difference in stopping the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Thompson said.

"Students at over 300 schools on four different continents will join together in fasting from a luxury item," Thompson said. "The money students save after fasting from this luxury item

can then be used toward a donation."

The fast began Thursday, Oct. 5, and will continue until Friday, Oct. 13. The organization will also be soliciting donations in the lobby of the Floyd-Payne Campus Center and students can also make personal donations through Thompson.

"We explain to everyone who walks through the student center what is going on and see if they would like to make a donation," said Dawn Thorton, a sophomore nursing major from Memphis. "It's for a good cause because we are helping people that are less fortunate than ourselves."

Thorton, a prospective member, attended the chapter meeting last Tuesday and said she is now an adamant supporter of the cause.

"I feel that STAND provides an opportunity and a better avenue for students to help others across the globe."

-Stephanie Bundle

What We Think

Conscious stands becoming more common

Since the Thursday, Sept. 28 shooting of TSU senior Marcus Allen Smith at the Hickory Hollow Mall following an alleged shoplifting attempt, fellow Tiger, Ashley Milton, has decided to take a stand and protest the reasoning behind the off-duty Tennessee state trooper and Dillard's department security officer actions.

Milton, a senior speech communications major from Montgomery, Ala., questions the motives behind the officer firing his state-issued gun on Smith, leaving him in critical condition with a wound to the neck.

Of course and by no means should shoplifting, or any other unlawful actions, be condoned, but with so many questions left unanswered, we all must consider whether trooper Aussie Thaxter's actions were necessary.

Perhaps this is why Milton is speaking out on behalf Smith or, as she put it, she is providing her voice because "Marcus doesn't have a voice right now."

For this reason it is indeed commendable that Milton has decided to take this stand.

Students' joining together for righteous causes seem to be a trend at TSU these days. The sometimes overly used term of apathy may not be just for this university.

In addition to the protest being organized by Ashley Milton, the university has seen students in the University Honors Program step up to improve the image of TSU as well as the formation of the first chapter of STAND, a national organization for college students aimed at improving the condition of those

affected by a genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

Like Milton suggested, students joining together taking a stand gives underserved populations a voice. Student joining together shows the TSU community that when one of us is hurt, we all are hurt. Doing this brings a sense of community to TSU and the surrounding neighborhood.

The TSU community is no stranger to students taking action. Almost a year ago in November 2005, students from TSU, Vanderbilt University, and Nashville State Technical Community College joined TSU's Alpha Beta chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. to protest the racial slurs made by the owners of the collegiate apparel store You Greek, Me Greek.

While the actions of these students are worth celebrating, it is certainly up to

the entire population of this community to be responsible for the growth and development of our home. It is pleasing to see action being taken and even more pleasing when action is being taken for a just cause.

We should be concerned when any in our family has harm brought to them. We should think enough of our campus to preserve our image and take steps to improve the TSU brand. Additionally, we improve our brand by doing our part to express our concern for worldwide epidemics.

An anonymous philosopher once suggested, "The journey of a thousand miles begin with the first step." This is indeed true and timely for today.

It is time for the TSU and surrounding communities to stand up and start walking. •

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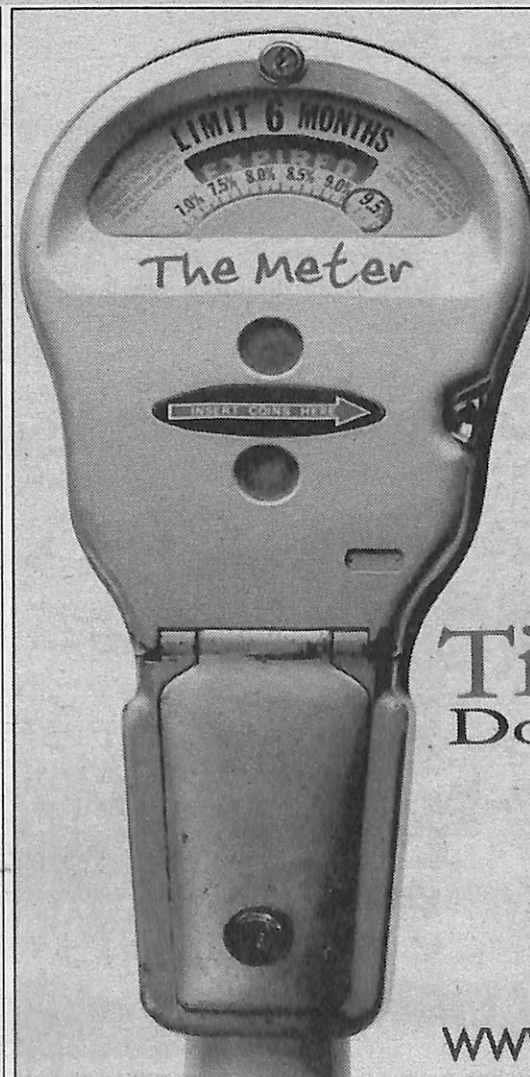
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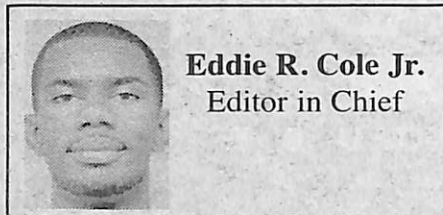
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TSU community should be transparent



Eddie R. Cole Jr.
Editor in Chief

Who knew that creating a positive change would be so difficult?

As editor of *The Meter*, I am responsible for ensuring that this publication is published on each of its scheduled publication dates. In addition to that, I must uphold our newly refined standard of serving you, our readers, with excellence.

The Meter has had its successes with national awards and accolades but it has done less than great in some aspects.

As student journalists, we have a responsibility that not even everyone on this staff understands. Our efforts to bring provide our readers with are in-depth, investigative and well-presented news items are not only a service but also, a personal requirement. However, thus far this semester, I know that we should have done so much more.

From our news section, we should have already begun coverage of analyzing the long-term effects of the Geier case settlement. *The Meter* should be on the verge of breaking down TSU President Melvin N. Johnson's inauguration from top to bottom. Wouldn't that be a great service to our readers if we covered the costs and logistics to an event of this magnitude? Don't forget about the new hires and promotions within the university on the faculty and staff level. This is all news that we, *The Meter*, should be covering.

But, don't forget about our Arts & Culture section. TSU is set for another year of on-campus plays, the Aristocrat of Bands are still practicing pass midnight and, off campus, Nashville has opened a new state-of-the-art symphony hall.

The Meter's sports section is the same. It's nothing to preview or cover a sporting event, but what about the people behind the event? How about the trainers,

assistant coaches, and statisticians? Do we ever shed light of those behind the scenes? I'm sure our readers would also like to know just how lucrative the John Merritt, Southern Heritage and Atlanta Football classics were to the TSU athletics program.

I admit that we have not covered all major campus occurrences. That's near impossible. But, it can be a lot better with your help.

Commercial media organizations get a tremendous amount of support and feedback from area news consumers. I solicit aid from the TSU community available. Be active with *The Meter* by submitting online feedback, writing letters to the editor and sending timely press releases of events occurring on campus.

Beyond *The Meter*, we, as a university community, can all effectively help each other.

I think most can relate to the fact that individuals at TSU wear many hats and have several irons in the fire. However,

the sooner we all understand that two minds are better than one, then the sooner TSU, and society, will grow and spread its good fortune.

Thus, we should be open and candid with each other and be willing to both lend and accept a helping hand. Know your purpose, strategize on what you want to accomplish and then surround yourself with people who will aid your mission.

The Meter lives by its mission statement and strives every day to do in an effort to "foster a positive change in the world around us..." Now, it charges you to become active and make an alteration for the better.

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SGA CORNER

Dear Students,

This week the Student Government Association would like to commend all of the persons who gave blood during last week's blood drive.

We would also like to remind all organizations to attend tonight's General Assembly meeting at 6 p.m. in the forum, room 210 of the Floyd-Payne

Campus Center. Also, we would encourage everyone to attend the Leadership Seminar on Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in the forum.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that this Friday there will be a Pep Rally at Noon in the Amphitheater. DO WEAR YOUR TSU PARAPHANALIA! We hope everyone has a happy and safe Fall Break.

SGA spokesperson,
Finesstra Moore

Having problems with your Mondays?
Not satisfied with the start to your week?
Want to be up on it and get it straight?

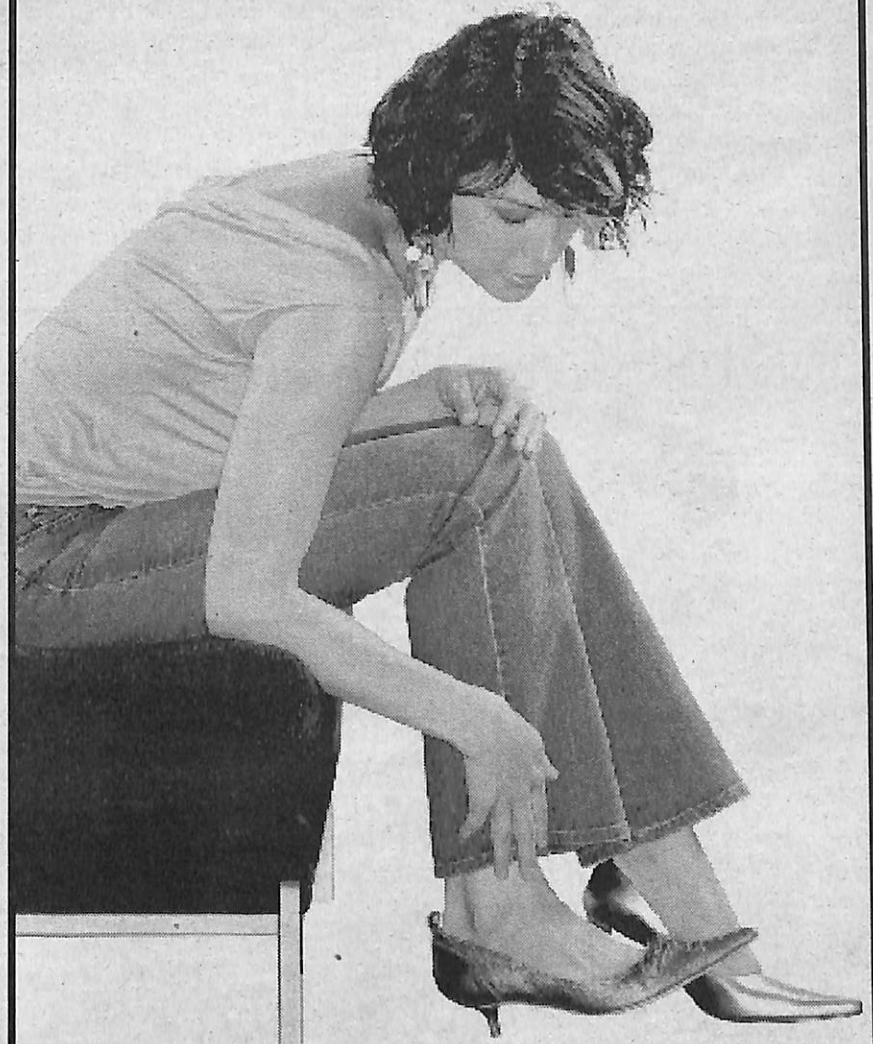


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Campus Hispanic presence grows

By Kristina Walling
Contributing Reporter

TSU has started introducing initiatives and strategies to embrace the growing trend of the Hispanic population within Tennessee, according to TSU Office of Admissions and Records officials.

John Cade, dean of Admissions and Records, said TSU now participates in Hispanic community events and extends outreach efforts by hiring Hispanic recruiter Jose Vazquez.

"We have developed a partnership with the Hispanic community and have established collaborative efforts to attract and enroll our share of this growing population of students," Cade said. "Statistically, we experienced an enrollment increase of more than 80 percent of new Hispanic students for fall 2006 over fall 2005."

Following the last month's settlement of the Geier Civil Rights case, which has resulted in TSU being awarded about \$200 million in funds over the last 15 years to upgrade facilities and recruit a more diverse student body, among other initiatives, TSU President Melvin N. Johnson announced that the university will continue these efforts.

"We have made a conscious effort to reach out to the educationally underserved populations," Johnson said.

Jacqueline Mitchell, special assistant to Johnson for the Geier case, spearheaded executing these diversification

efforts. Mitchell said she brought together the efforts to reach out to Tennessee's growing Hispanic community by arranging college fairs and campus tours geared toward those students.

She said future plans include an on-campus luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 7 to bring groups of mostly junior and senior high school students, as well as their parents.

"(Latino) families make the decision (of attending college) together," Mitchell said. "There are 36 students who have identified their plans to attend."

Mitchell also said a formal tour with Hispanic Achievers, an organization TSU has already established a relationship with, is planned for Nov. 11 to give university personnel an opportunity to meet with the students and their families. She said during the campus visit, presentations will be made and the fliers advertising the visit will be printed bilingually.

"You already feel the (Hispanic) presence here," said Mitchell. "We look forward to bringing in the Hispanic Achievers on to this campus."

Other efforts, such as advertising in the Spanish version of the *Yellow Pages* and posting billboards in Nashville communities with dense Hispanic populations, are also underway, Mitchell said.

Callie Leousis, TSU director of extended services and continuing education, said the university also offers lecture and online courses in basic English for Spanish speakers. Though they are non-credit courses, Leousis said the university is offering them to assist in skill building for conversations and help

native Spanish speakers in their daily lives and community situations.

Melanie Cruz, a sophomore biology major from Brooklyn, N.Y., who is Puerto Rican, said she feels that this effort has been a long time coming. She noted that she was unable to attain a minority scholarship at either the University of Tennessee because she was not African-American nor at TSU because she was not white.

"The mindset of the (U.S.) educational system and government with recognizing races are closed-minded," Cruz said. "I am a minority but, right now, I cannot gain the benefits from it."

Although several TSU faculty and administrators are embracing the university's new commitment to bring more diversity to campus, some TSU students, such as Kisa Grant, have uneasy feelings towards the efforts.

Grant, a senior psychology major from Denver, who is an African-American, said she does not "care too much" for the efforts for increasing diversity at the predominately and historically black TSU.

"Speaking as a whole, African-Americans feel like we do not have a lot as it is," Grant said. "It feels like we are losing something else that we have."

Hispanics have surpassed Blacks as the largest minority in the nation and continue to grow in numbers, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2003, the number of Hispanics grew to 39 million from 35 million in 2001, while the number of Blacks grew to 37 million from 35 million in 2001.

Diana Kiser, a senior biology major from Bogotá, Colombia, said she learned of TSU from a career fair. She is now completing her degree and said that offering more diversity "enriches and improves" the university through the healthy competition and knowledge another culture can bring.

"This is the best place to come and study," Kiser said. "It offers a lot of diversity and I did not have much contact with black people where I lived or in my community. I am very happy being here."

Copy Editor/Opinions Editor Marshall A. Latimore contributed to this report.

"The mindset of the (U.S.) educational system and government with recognizing races are closed-minded. I am a minority but, right now, I cannot gain the benefits from it."

-Melanie Cruz

Student shooting was first of its kind

Continued from page 1

be taken. But who gives right for another person to take anyone's life? We have to be realistic. Marcus was shot over a materialistic item costing less than \$300."

After researching the Dillard's statistics regarding shoplifting and crime, Milton said she found that Marcus' situation was a first ever occurrence in the store's history. She said there wasn't a previous instance of a shooting at the Hickory Hollow Mall.

"If these types of apprehensive measures haven't been taken by the company in the past, why now?" she asked.

Even though Milton admitted she didn't know Smith well, she said no one should ever be handled like that.

Milton said she has been monitoring Smith's progress by keeping in contact with Smith's cousin Clint Donald, who is also a TSU student.

Donald, a senior criminal justice major from Chicago, said he wanted to clear up any speculations about his cousin's condition. He said that it has been difficult for the family knowing that there have been rumors that Smith had died or otherwise.

"My cousin is doing a lot better than the doctors had hoped for," Donald said.

"He's really strong, he's fighting for his life."

Milton said she hopes get the protest organized quickly, so it may take place as early as Wednesday.

"Two wrongs never make a right," Milton said, intent with making a difference. "I don't care if it's just me out there...one voice is better than none."

Julie Oaks, spokeswoman for the Tennessee Department of Public Safety, said the department's internal affairs division is investigating whether procedures were properly followed in the incident.

Oaks said the internal affairs division handles any complaints or instances

where deadly force is used in either of the department's two offices, as was allegedly perpetrated by Thaxter in this case.

"(The incident) is being very thoroughly investigated," Oaks said. "We're certainly glad that Trooper Thaxter made it out (of the hospital) okay. It's unfortunate in any situation when a trooper has to use deadly force for fear of their lives."

John Hazel, store manager for the Dillard's at Hickory Hollow Mall, declined to comment but did refer all media inquiries to Dillard's national spokesman Paul Schroeder, who after several attempts couldn't be reached for comment.

More than half of blacks lose scholarship

Continued from page 1

the scholarship were from households with incomes less than or equal to \$36,000. Out of this number, 55 percent (3,178) failed to retain the award. Conversely, more than 7,000 of the award recipients were from homes with incomes greater than or equal to \$75,000. Of this group, 42 percent (2,917) failed to retain their award.

Richard Rhoda, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, said students who were awarded HOPE based solely on their high school grade point averages were not retaining the scholarship at a higher ratio than those who met the criteria based on their ACT scores.

"(S)tudents who (were) awarded the scholarship on GPA alone are the ones who are having a tougher time retaining the scholarship," Rhoda said. "We're concerned about that..."

Rhoda also said the students who did not retain the scholarship generally failed to meet the criteria by a large margin.

"Those who didn't make the '2.75' (required grade point average) didn't miss it by a hair, they missed it by a mile," he said.

According to the report, 57 percent of the first-time freshmen recipients who failed to retain their scholarship had scored a 21 or below on the ACT. The report also stated, "an ACT score greater than or equal to 21 and a requirement merely of 22 would have resulted in a loss of 80 percent of the scholarships granted to African-Americans in Tennessee."

The report went on to state, "lowering of the eligibility requirement to a '20' or '19' would still prevent 60 and 46 percent (African-Americans), respectively, from receiving aid."

However, State Senator Thelma Harper, a TSU graduate, blamed the retention rates on a continuous rising of the requirements for students' eligibility for receiving the HOPE scholarship. Though effects of a recent change in the state ACT requirement of the scholarship to a 21 are as of yet unknown, Harper said the decision to raise the requirement was a bad one.

"You've got poor people playing the lottery and wealthy people benefiting from it," Harper said. "The average ACT score is 18. I thought it was mean-spirited when they raised (the requirement) to 21 because it gave the appearance that they were trying to eliminate a certain segment from higher education."

"I think you will see a movement to raise it even higher based on what (Rhoda) said about TSU's scores are lower than any other schools in the system," she added.

Additionally, the report identified that while 47 percent of white students failed to retain their lottery scholarships as sophomores, 63 percent of African-American students lose their scholarships during the same time frame. Of the 2,315 African-American students awarded HOPE scholarships, 1,459 lost the award after their freshman year.

The THEC and Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation have taken cues from the state of Georgia due to the proximity of the state and the success of its

program but still made additional provisions to allow more students access to the award, according to Rhoda.

"We look primarily at Georgia because they are the closest and they have the greatest track record," Rhoda said. "They were always at 50 percent (retention). They require a 3.0 at the end of the 24 (required credit) hours, we thought we were building in a cushion where it could be as low as a 2.75...we still have attrition problems...(so) now the question is, 'could we drop it even lower and retain more students?'"

The report states that 73 percent of students who received HOPE would not have been eligible if Tennessee "had followed the path of sister programs and tied eligibility solely to performance of a 21 on the ACT."

Due to the early stages of the program, steps are currently being taken to shape the standards for students awarding and retaining the scholarships.

"It's long-term and we're learning with this program," Rhoda said. "There are a lot of people who study (this)..."

"It's going to take some time to get

this engrained in all the students," Rhoda added. "At some point the lottery is going to stop generating money at a certain level. It hasn't stopped yet so the program is continuing to grow. The general assembly has increased the dollar amount each year so it is more of a benefit, so the program is going to be around a long time."

Even though students may lose the award after their freshman year, there are provisions to appeal the loss of their scholarship, according to Robert Biggers, lottery scholarship administrator for the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

"We know that young minds, freshmen, students... may not make that hurdle and stumble academically, so provisions were made to give students another opportunity to regain the award," Biggers said.

Be sure to read upcoming issues for more on HOPE scholars.

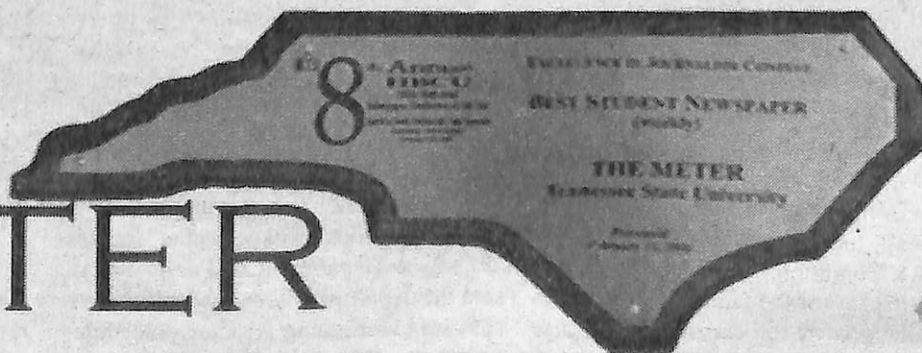
"You've got poor people playing the lottery and wealthy people benefiting from it."

-Thelma Harper

Tennessee State Senator and TSU graduate

1st Place Best Weekly HBCU Newspaper Conference
1st Place Best Web Site HBCU Newspaper Conference
1st Place Feature Photo SPJ Region 12 Conference
2nd Place Best Web Site Southeastern Journalism Conference

**THE
METER**



THE MEASURE OF STUDENT OPINION AND SENTIMENT SINCE 1950

Team to compete in investment competition

Continued from page 1

education programs in Middle Tennessee schools.

"This is another chance to get on the playing field," said William U. Latham, associate director of the TSU honors program and team coach. "We're the only HBCU competing in this competition."

Each team will be given \$500,000 dollars to invest and the squad with the largest portfolio at the end of the day will win the competition and then have the chance to take on professional traders from local investment banks on Monday evening at 5:30 p.m.

Beyond competing, team officials said the team plans on acquiring a display from the Office of Admissions and Records to showcase photos, facts and figures about TSU to the other teams and the general public that will be in attendance.

"This is the first time this event has been opened up to local colleges and uni-

versities," Latham added. "So, we feel like this is a great opportunity to get out there and run these plays."

Among some of the students chances to run plays was the 28th Annual National Black Master's of Business Administration Association (NMBBAA) Conference held in the Georgia World Congress Center held Sept. 27 - Oct. 1, according to Latham.

The University's Honors Program sent five students to the conference's annual career fair, which showcases nearly 400 companies from across the world. Before they hit the exhibition

floor, attendees could brush upon their interviewing skills, update and refresh their resumes or receive one-on-one professional coaching.

Notable exhibitors were Ford Motor Company, Daimler-Chrysler, Intel, Toyota and The Home Depot. All the conference attendees received advisement with regards to education, career, leadership, entrepreneurship and lifestyle.

In the Thursday, Oct. 5 issue of The Meter, Johnson, a junior accounting major from Memphis, said the opportunities to participate in events, such as the

National Black MBA Conference, are beneficial to all students because of the networking bonds formed.

"When we go and take part in these events, we are representing Tennessee State University," Johnson said. "We're adding to the already established brand and shaping it into a brand of excellence. We want to establish nationally so that when people think of TSU, they think of excellence."

Piphus, a junior psychology major from Cincinnati who echoed Johnson sentiments, charged other TSU students to "get on the field with us."

"We have some connections that are going to be forthcoming in the future," Piphus said.

Latham said students' participation is a way to display true love for the university.

"We want to encourage everybody to get on the field and show that resolute ownership for TSU," Latham said. •

"When we go and take part in these events, we are representing Tennessee State University,"

-Jerry Johnson
TSU junior

iRead



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THE METER
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Thursday
September 7, 2006

Nashville, Tenn.
Volume 37
Issue 7



The Classic Fashion Show gave TSU a week's peak of fall style.



It would have done the trick. See how The Meter cuts it.



Come two of the current teams. Tigers have to fight to beat the Ravens.



Kelly Carroll, a student leader, is the focus of the new cover story.

Special elections begin

By Cara Anthony and Gregory Brand Jr.
Campaign News Editor and Coordinating Reporter

More student participation is the aim of the TSU Student Election Commission for the fall 2006 special elections.

SEC officials said they aim to fill vacant seats before the start of the spring semester. The commission is a joint effort of the Student Government and the Student Senate.

Modern Miller, a member of SEC, said the commission's goal is to increase student participation in the fall semester. The group is hoping to have more candidates than voters.

"We hope for a larger turnout at voting this year and that the positions are filled in the best of their ability," said Miller.

Students, however, are skeptical. "I don't think we'll see much more than the same old, same old," said Kelly Carroll.

Yearlong opening filled in Financial Aid

By Madelyn England
Assistant Editor

After more than 11 months of vacancies, the Tennessee Board of Education announced the filling of TSU's director of financial aid position.

Ray Chastain, who led the search, said he was pleased to see the position filled. Chastain said he was pleased to see the position filled.

Chastain said the TSU board of education and academic quality committee recommended Chastain for the position.

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THE METER
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Thursday
September 14, 2006

Nashville, Tenn.
Volume 37
Issue 8



Sports Zone, the on-campus sports hub, has opened for the fall.



Thursday October 5, 2006
Nashville, Tenn.
Volume 37
Issue 8

TIGER CLASH



TSU's football team, the Tigers, defeated Jackson State in a home game on Sept. 10.

Convocation has low turnout

By Taylor Terrell
Staff Reporter

The small turnout for opening convocation has not been blamed on a lack of faculty and staff members, according to some campus observers.

Some 100 students, faculty and staff members attended the convocation on Sept. 14.

"I think it should be recognized that convocation is a tradition. I don't think that the convocation has been as important as it once was," said Taylor Terrell.

Through the years, convocation has been a tradition at TSU. It is a time for students to meet their faculty and staff members.

"I think it should be recognized that convocation is a tradition. I don't think that the convocation has been as important as it once was," said Taylor Terrell.

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Students savor at campus



Students savor the atmosphere at a campus event.

Million-dollars to grant research wishes

TSU has received a grant of \$1 million to support research projects.

leaves repairs defunct

A new building for research and sponsored projects is being constructed on campus.

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Thursday
September 28, 2006

Nashville, Tenn.
Volume 37
Issue 8



TSU's football team, the Tigers, defeated Jackson State in a home game on Sept. 10.



TSU's football team, the Tigers, defeated Jackson State in a home game on Sept. 10.

SHUTTING

Tigers want to contain Vandy QB

By LaVonne Young
Sports Editor

TSU head coach James Shuford has said he wants to contain Vanderbilt's quarterback.

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Comedy tour tickles TSU's funny bone

By M. Antonio Silas
Co-Assistant Arts & Culture
Editor

The Beta Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. hosted the Jokers Gone Wild Comedy Tour on Friday, Oct. 6 in Kean Hall.

Reginald Ballard, better known as "Bro Man from the fifth floor" on the sitcom *Martin*, hosted the event while introducing to the audience relatively new talent that has performed on BET's *Comic View* and *Coming to the Stage*. While the show originally consisted of five comics, there were four on hand for

the tour that includes several stops at HBCUs across the nation.

The show, with an initial start time of 8 p.m. but started 45 minutes late, was opened with Washington D.C. native Troy Lamont, the first comedian Ballard introduced to the sparse crowd of attendees.

Lamont kept those in attendance laughing as he took comedic shots at the disc jockey for the event, which ended up being a running gag throughout the duration of the show. During his act, he invited on stage Whitnee Woods, a junior physical sciences major from St. Louis, to rap and Lisa Washington, a sophomore social work major from Chicago, to

See "Comedians" on page 13

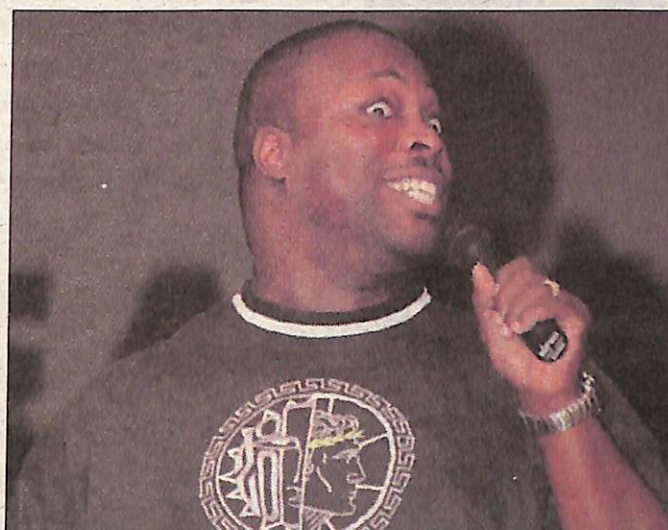


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Reginald "Bro Man from the fifth floor" Ballard entertained students as he hosted the Jokers Gone Wild Comedy Tour. The Beta Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity inc. sponsored the event.

Local church ministry visions move to campus

By Jessica Reaves
Contributing Reporter

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is in the final stages of registering with TSU student activities as student organization, according to church officials.

Jimmy Greer, pastor of Friendship, said the church plans to hold on campus Bible study Wednesdays at noon. The location is to be announced.

"Our purpose is to aid young people in serving God in every way," Greer said. "We commit to doing whatever it takes, to assist students on their spiritual journey."

Friendship, which is located at 1109 32nd Avenue, began reaching out more to students three years ago with its inception of Vision College Ministries, a contemporary outreach program that encourages spiritual growth, according to friendshipchurchinc.org.



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Vision started out as a student choir of approximately 10 students who sang on occasional Sundays, according to Stephanie Wise-Cunningham, Friendship's choir director and future noon Bible study teacher.

She said the program has grown to more than 30 undergraduate and graduate students, which eventually led into the establishment of a 1 p.m. contemporary worship service in addition to the

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church's Vision College Ministries will soon be an official campus organization. Vision will offer on-campus Bible study.

church's traditional 11 a.m. service on Sundays.

"It's amazing to see how far we've come in just a short amount of time," Wise-Cunningham said. "This goes to show you what God can truly do."

The mission of Vision is "to provide young adults with a safe place to dialogue and engage with their peers in an effort to advance their spiritual growth."

Greer said that one way to encour-

age the mission statement is by reaching students in the TSU community.

Greer and Wise-Cunningham both said they wanted reach students on-campus to provide every way possible for students to have a chance to attend Bible study.


Many students have so many other activities that they sometimes may be unable to attend Bible Study on Wednesday nights, Wise-Cunningham said. This new time affords students the opportunity to be present at Bible study.

"We're trying to eliminate excuses," Wise-Cunningham said. "If you can't come to Bible study, then we'll bring Bible study to you."

TSU junior Calvin Williams said he pleased with Friendship's move to campus.

"It's nice to see Friendship reaching out to the TSU community," said Calvin Williams, a junior accounting major from Birmingham. "I'm anxious to see the growth with this ministry."*

QUAKE



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- 2/5 Buy the bootleg
- 1/5 Don't waste the money

Release Therapy

Ludacris
4/5

In terms of hip-hop, the name Ludacris is about as common as seeing a sunrise in the morning. He solidified his place in the rap game with his major label debut on Def Jam, *Back for the First Time*, which went double platinum – an impressive feat for someone fresh out of the gate.

Since then, Ludacris has released four other LPs, his latest being *Release Therapy*. With this highly-anticipated release, it's evident that he has no intent of slowing down anytime soon.

Release Therapy has points where the listener could applaud Ludacris on the originality of some of his punch lines and scold him for not coming up with anything truly new on many of his songs.

Money Maker, the lead single from the album, has been getting decent radio spins, but the song itself leaves much to be desired. Though Pharrell William's trademark sound graces the record, the song itself doesn't have the signature Ludacris replay-ability that songs like



PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSIC.YAHOO.COM

Pimpin' All over the World or *Move* still have even now.

Don't be mistaken, there are some incredible tracks on *Release Therapy*. *War With God* seems like a reply to T.I.'s *I'm Talking To You*, despite the fact that T.I. said it wasn't directed towards anyone in particular; Ludacris maintains the same about his song.

Tell It Like It Is does just that, explaining to listeners the ins and outs of the music business, while also taking cleverly calculated shots at a well-known rap mogul and openly criticizing ex-label mate Chingy.

Grew Up a Screw Up, arguably one of the best songs on the CD, features Ludacris and Young Jeezy going back and fourth over a beat that samples one of Notorious B.I.G.'s famous lines.

Ludacris actually provides some social commentary on songs *Runaway Love* and *Freedom of Preach*. He explores new topics and displays some of his newfound maturity, which can be either a good or a bad thing depending on who you ask. The songs on the album have their high and low points, but Ludacris maintains his signature flow and word play throughout the album.

Bottom Line: Ludacris won't disappoint his older fans with this album, but he might not attract new ones with this release. While it doesn't have as much glitz and glamour as some of his older releases, this album does show a more adult side of Ludacris, which could be something fresh to new and old fans alike.

M. Antonio Silas

Lyricist Lounge

My Dedication
By Michael Moore, Jr.

This is dedicated to my dedication/A life worthy of narration/An inspiration toward humble/Beginnings and endings and/Mutual kinship.

Our masses accelerate to create perpetual forces.

Of course it's a long Time but may we live forever/Endure endeavors together/Absent of this world and cares/Of boy and girl but marriage of/Man and woman, husband and wife

The last cite of 2 names, the First sight of ordained elation/Unwaned illumination,

a foundation/Paired avec less snares of balance/And misused talents. I want my milk/And honey to come from your lips/Celebrating on supernatural

Terrestrial trips upon Eternity where the sands grant/Our footprints permanent/Residence and the pestilence of/Of fear and doubt lives not in

The house architected by the Great I Am, for my wealth lies/In the depths of your heart/From whence mine can never part/For apart means poverty.

I pray for protection from robbery/For I love happiness And I'm happiest when/I can dedicate my life to

The One who holds my dedication/For where my heart is there am/I dedicated...

TSU FALL BREAK
Oct. 14-17

Comedians disappointed by slim turnout

Continued from page 11

dance. He was well received by the students and his jokes and stories kept the audience laughing.

"For my set, everyone was cool and very attentive," Lamont expressed to *The Meter* following the event. "I feel like there may have been a lack of promotion, but the crowd was pretty cool."

The second comedian, Eric T. Meiser, was much different in his approach than Lamont. He jokingly began his act by telling the audience to fill in any expletive during his jokes because he made a promise to himself that he wouldn't use any profanity.

His topics ranged from similarities between thugs and the elderly to his discrepancies with handicapped parking. Some of his jokes seemed to be hit and miss with the audience.

"I've been doing comedy for about two years now and this is the very first tour I've been on," Meiser said. "The crowd wasn't as pumped up as our last school, but they weren't rowdy and really came out to hear some comedy."

Following her rapping segment during Lamont's act, Woods gave her opinion as to why Meiser felt the crowd was not enthusiastic about the show.

"The thoughts of students at TSU weren't diverse enough for this comedian," Woods explained. "You have to be open-minded to comedians and come with a funny bone. TSU students didn't do this."

"I feel like there may have been a lack of promotion, but the crowd was pretty cool."

-Troy Lamont



Junior speech communications and theater major, Whitney Woods showed the audience her rapping talent on the stage with Troy Lamont.

PHOTO KENNETH CUMMINGS

The most talked-about comedian of the night was Atlanta native T.L. Fitz, who came out full of energy and covered a wide span of topics. Fitz's biggest laughs received from the audience was about the audience and the comedy show itself.

Throughout his set, he talked about the lack of people in attendance and invited the audience to sit up front. He kept a very positive theme throughout his show and student feedback showed that he was really enjoyed show.

"Fitz was the only one that was truly funny to me," Washington said. "The show itself was pretty good, but I think more people could've come out."

Fitz's comedic experience was evident.

"The show was great, and there was 100 percent crowd participation from the people that showed up," Fitz said to *The Meter*. "I've been doing comedy for over 11 years now. I was on *Coming to the Stage*. It was an eye opening experience for me. It let me know how I stacked up against other people in the nation... Comedy is a long and hard road, but it's worth it."

Despite the low attendance, Whitney White, a sophomore physical sciences major from Detroit, said the event flowed well.

"The attendance was lacking but on a positive note it was very well organized," White said. "It could have been the price or any number of things."



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Reginald Ballard, who played "Bro Man from the fifth floor" on the *Martin* sitcom, entertains the crowd in Kean Hall during the Joker's Wild Comedy Tour on Friday, Oct. 6.

Host of the show Reginald Ballard came out to a good crowd response and began the night an impression of his infamous character "Bro Man from the fifth floor" from *Martin*. He pulled no punches as he talked about topics such as sex, marriage, and respect. But before the show, Ballard gave *The Meter* staff a bit of insight on his life and upcoming projects.

Q: How long has the tour been going on and where have you been so far?

A: We started last Sunday (Oct. 1) at Central State University, another HBCU. We stopped in Indiana, Ohio, and Canton. We're taking a break this weekend and the following week we're headed out to St. Louis.

Q: What's been happening since *Martin*? Have you talked to anyone from the show lately?

A: Since *Martin*, I've been on *All of Us*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, and I recently did a commercial for a new car that Dodge is releasing. I've also been doing stand-up. After we finish the tour, I'm in a stage play called *Woman to Woman* that we started touring out in Chicago.

Q: How did you end up on *Martin*?

A: I remember one day I was just sitting down watching *Martin* with one of my friends when I heard there was an audition for the show. I just went and tried out. Benny Richburg game up with my character, who was originally named "Brother Man." When I auditioned for the part, I just shortened it to "Bro Man."

Q: Are there any projects you're working on?

A: I recently did a movie called *Redrum*. It's a dark comedy about a black suburban family. The husband basically gets caught in a bad situation and ends up killing someone. The twist is the fact that he enjoys it. The storyline progresses on from there.

Q: How long have you been doing stand-up comedy?

A: I've been doing stand-up for a while, but I originally started out acting. I started comedy right after *Martin* was cancelled. I originally started at a club in Houston, and since then I've been all over the world.

Q: You were originally a psychology major. Did you ever think taking a theatre class would take you as far as you did?

A: I knew I wanted to be an actor since the fourth grade. I used to love watching Bruce Lee movies! I just never told any of my friends because you know how people like to make fun of that type of thing. After I started theatre at Southern Methodist University, I transferred to University of Missouri to study Black Theatre. I did monologues and dramatic plays while I was there. Even though I'm known for comedy, I definitely have a serious side when it comes to acting. I also worked on production while I was there. It was always something I wanted to do. I knew it was going to happen regardless.

NEWS BREAK

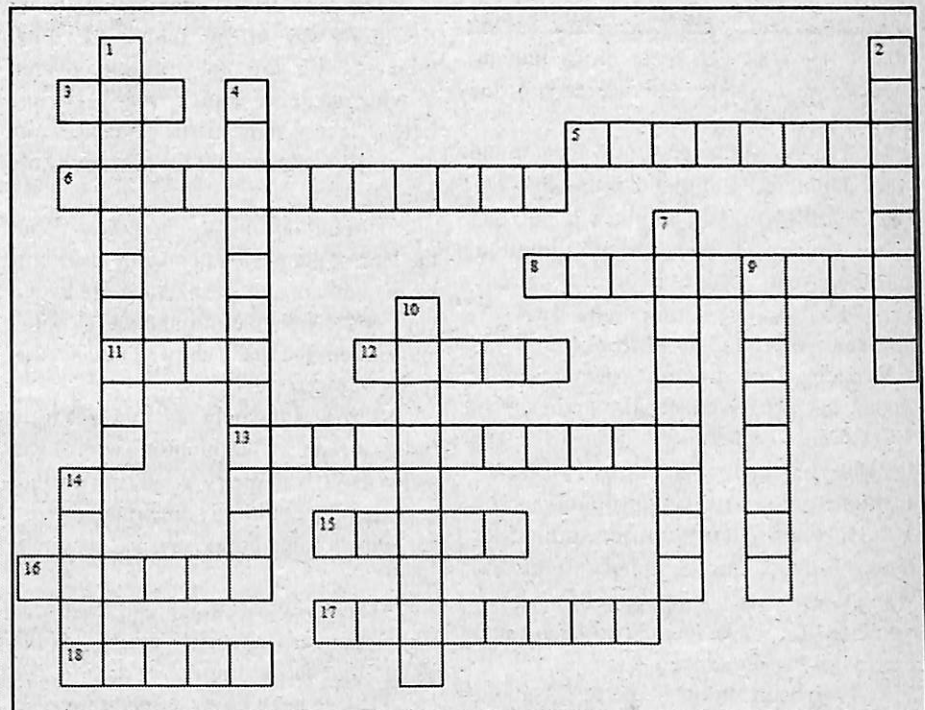
'Cause everyone needs a break from the news!

Steamy day



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

TSU's Physical Plant steams up the west side of campus on Thursday, Oct. 5. Several students took time out to watch the occurrence.



ACROSS

- 3. Mightier than the sword.
- 5. Two parts ---- one part oxygen.
- 6. Circle City Classic Home.
- 8. Sword of King Arthur.
- 11. A reflection of sound
- 12. Formerly known as the ninth planet.
- 13. The Mighty ----- River.
- 15. Brawl.
- 16. Lincoln University alum The Weary Blues author.
- 17. 1994 film loosely based on Spike Lee's childhood.
- 18. Makers of Kool-Aid.

DOWN

- 1. TSU yearbook Nashville daily newspaper.
- 2. To talk a shoe brand.
- 4. Optimus Prime is the leader.
- 7. Young Buck popularized the nickname for the city.
- 9. "Out of the night that covers me..." poem.
- 10. Sir Duke ----
- 14. Lil Jon energy drink

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in the Poll

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With the Geier desegregation case close and \$40 million guaranteed to TSU over the next five years what do you think will happen to the current enrollment of about 9,000 during that time frame?

- A. It will grow by more than 3,000
- B. It will shrink by more than 3,000
- C. It will stay stagnate
- D. It will grow by less than 3,000
- E. It will shrink by less than 3,000



TSU

Sports

THE METER

Monday
October 9, 2006

Volume 57
Issue 11

Recruit leaves TSU, goes through release limbo

By Melaney Whiting
Arts and Culture Editor

Editor's Note: Melaney Whiting served as lead reporter for this article due to her initial rapport formed when covering source Alyson Lawson's summer 2006 signing to play collegiate golf at TSU. The Meter acknowledges the potential misconception of journalistic bias based on Whiting's past participation within TSU athletics.

After a series of initial denials of a freshman golf recruit's request for an athletic release, TSU Director of Athletics Teresa Phillips said the department has granted Alyson Lawson the eligibility to compete in golf at Hampton University.

Lawson, a top-ranked Texas high

school golfer who initially signed to play collegiate golf for the Tigers, transferred to Hampton after withdrawing from TSU just prior to classes beginning due to a series of unpleasing events during Freshman Week on and around the campus, according to Lawson's mother Terry Smith.

"There were three incidences involving a gun that occurred just within that one week," Smith said. "I couldn't sleep at night and, as a mother, I felt that it was my responsibility to remove my daughter from a school where I felt she wasn't safe so that I could feel more secure about her safety."

Smith said that Lawson experienced a robbery, shooting and a brawl in consecutive order that week. The first inci-

dent occurred on Monday, Aug. 21, when Lawson's friend and student Terry Johnson was robbed at gunpoint on campus near the upperclassman male residence center Boyd Hall, according to Smith.

She added that on Thursday, Aug. 24, Lawson took attended a fraternity party at Jefferson Street's John Henry's night club where there was a shooting and, on Saturday, Aug. 26, at the Back to School party in the Gentry Center, a massive brawl broke out causing the party to end. Following the fight, gunshots were fired just outside of Wilson Hall, Lawson's residence, Smith said.

Johnson was unable to be reached for comment on the robbery. *The Meter* was only able to confirm that the on-

campus Back to School fight and shooting occurred.

"I couldn't handle my daughter being there, knowing what I knew," Smith said.

Following Lawson's withdrawal, Smith said they informed TSU head golf coach Michael Knight of their request for an athletic release, which Knight told them would be granted.

"We told him we wanted an athletic release and that Alyson was leaving TSU due to safety issues," Smith said. "He was completely understanding, and went on to explain how he wanted to make everything as painless as possible for us and that he would release Alyson."

In the Thursday, Sept. 14 issue of

See "Back" on page 18

Pick-up game takes down key Tiger player

By LaVonte Young
Sports Editor

Senior guard Bruce Price will miss the entire 2006-07 season due to a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) suffered during a pick-up game.

This is Price's second time tearing an ACL in the last nine months. He suffered a season ending knee injury during last season's Dec. 23, 2005, game at Ohio State. Price was averaging 19.3 points per game and had become the 24th player in TSU hoops history to score 1,000 points in his before going down.

Price averaged 13.7 points per game during the 2004-05 season and tallied 17.6 points per game during his freshman season in 2003-04.

"This is a very unfortunate event," said TSU head men's basketball coach Cy Alexander. "We will continue to support him and we hope that he will be ready for the 2007-08 season."

Price could not be reached for comment by *The Meter*.

Based on Alexander's 2006-07 keys

to success reported in the Monday, Sept. 11 issue of *The Meter*, the men's basketball team can only be a pretty good team this season.

The top question posed for this season's team was whether or not Price could return to his pre-Ohio State form of averaging nearly 20 points per game. Alexander said that if TSU could answer all five questions, the team would be great. He said four of five being answered would ensure that the team would be good at best.

Since Price's second season-ending injury, Alexander said that Reiley Ervin, Cody Waddey and LaDarius Weaver will have to step in and play the point guard position, while Andrea Belton, Obbina Hunt and Moraye Ivy will have to step in a play shooting guard position.

"It hurts to lose a player that averaged 20 points a game last season," said Ervin, a junior guard from Memphis. "I still believe that we are going to win the Ohio Valley Conference Championship."

Senior center Courtney Bohannon agreed with Ervin.

"I feel that we were going to win the

OVC championship with him, but now we have to win it for him," Bohannon said.

Jennifer Bell, TSU assistant athletic director for compliance, said Price will get another year of eligibility.

Bell said that each student-athlete has a five-year window in which he or she is eligible to compete for his or her university. In Price's case, since he was injured last season and will not play this season, he has only played two seasons.

"This season Bruce will not be on the roster," Bell said. "He will be able to file a waiver at the season to get another year of eligibility and the NCAA will make the decision to give him another a year."

"It hurts to lose a player that averaged 20 points a game last season."

-Reiley Ervin

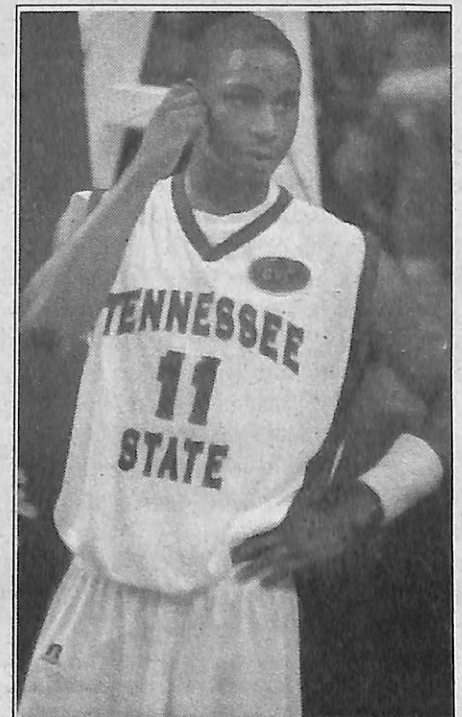


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Senior gaurd Bruce Price is expected to miss the entire 2006-07 season.

Tigers rev up for first Biker's Classic

By Victoria White and
Derrick Garland
Contributing Reporters

The TSU Department of Athletics hopes to get more people out to Tigers' home football games and raise funds for programs when it holds its inaugural Biker's Classic. Weekend beginning Friday, according to Carl Pillow, director of athletics operations.

Pillow said the funds raised by the Classic will go towards students' education and related needs of the Department of Athletics. TSU will face off against Tennessee Tech for the main event of the weekend on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. downtown at LP Field.

"TSU's goal is to raise the attendance of the football games," Pillow said.

In addition to boosting TSU's current 2006 home attendance average of 15,050, the objective of the Biker's Classic is not only to entertain, but to also change the Nashville community's view of biker clubs.

TSU athletics decided to change the name of the classic from the original Black Biker's Classic to the Biker's Classic due to the fact that there is a Black Biker Association.

"It was originally named the Black Bikers Classic," said Pillow. "But we saw that it was an organization with the same name, so we changed it so it would not be any confusion.

Though this will be the first time TSU has hosted its Biker's Classic, there seems to be a buzz circulating from coast to coast.

Biker clubs from all over the United States are scheduled to at the Biker's Classic, officials said. Jay said.

"(C)lubs to be on the look out for are Midnight Riders from Louisiana, Heavy Metal from Ohio, and Leather and Lace from (Washington) D.C.," said Rolanda "Lady Ro" Stewart, an ex-member of Nashville's Player's (Biker) Club."

Pillow said that in addition to the Biker's Classic being the first of its kind hosted by TSU, but it will also be the first classic played against an Ohio Valley Conference rival.

"This is not a classic like the Southern Heritage," Pillow said, noting that it is hard to determine whether or not the Biker's Classic will become a perma-

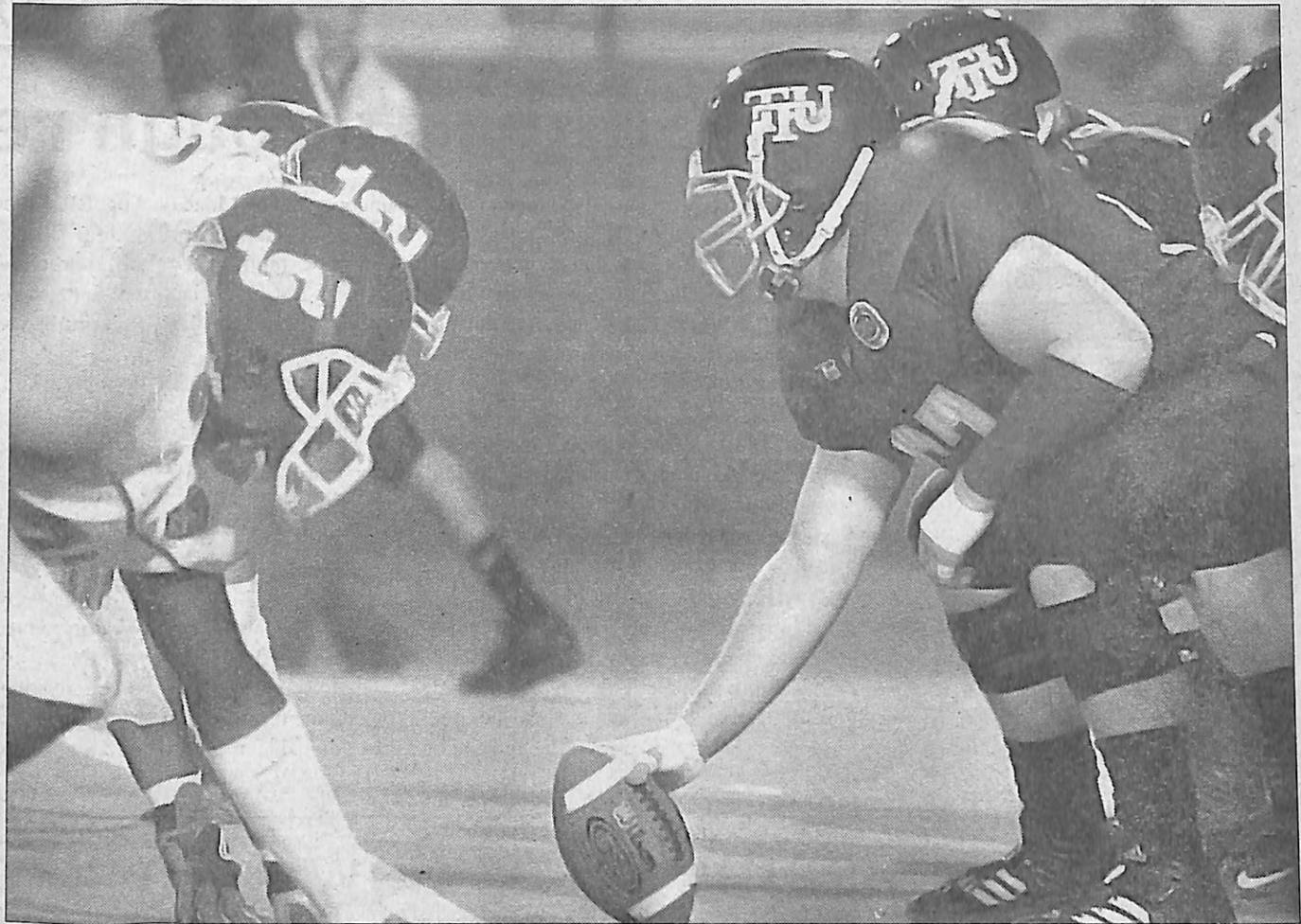


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

The inaugural Biker's Classic will be held on Saturday, Oct 14. The Tigers will play the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles. Last year, the Tigers defeated TTU 31-20.

nent tradition." It is something the Athletics Department created to help boost attendance at the football games. If we 10,000 people showed up for the game, it would be considered a success."

The game: The TSU Tigers (2-3, 1-0 OVC) is coming off of a bye week to take on the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles (2-4, 2-1 OVC) on Saturday.

TSU defeated TTU 31-20 last season in Cookeville on the shoulders of then-freshman running back Javarris Williams' 190 rushing yards and 1 touchdown

Through five games this season, the Tigers average 341 yards total offense per game and allow 327.6 yards per game total defense.

Offensive leaders include quarterback Antonio Heffner leads all OVC passers with 194.4 yards per game. Williams averages 122 rushing yards per game. The Tiger defense is led by linebacker Calvin Baker and cornerback Aaron Strong. Baker has 34 total tackles this season and Strong has 32. TSU cor-

nerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie has five interceptions on the season.

Tennessee Tech has the OVC's worst offense averaging 271.2 yards per game. The Golden Eagle defense allows 347 yards per game.

Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. at LP Field.

**Biker's Classic
TSU vs. Tennessee Tech
Oct 14, 2006
Kickoff 6 p.m.
LP Field**

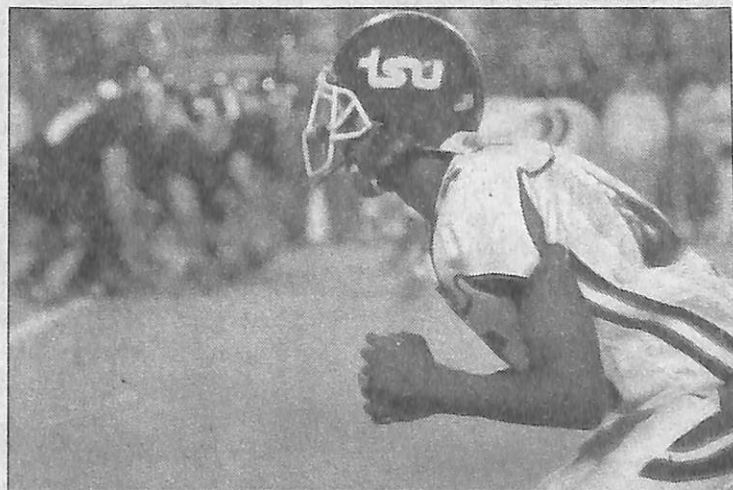


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

**Junior
Cornerback
Dominique
Rodgers-
Cromartie
readies for a
play during
last season's
game against
Tennessee
Tech. The
Tigers defeat-
ed TTU 31-20.**

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For 56 years, The Meter has been
"The measure of student opinion and sentiment"
at Tennessee State University.

THE METER

Back and forth requests, denials end for golfer

Continued from page 15

The Meter, Knight said that he regretted that TSU did not give Lawson a chance see that the campus is safe.

"Every student receives safety tips on their myTSU account," Knight said. "Those tips are there to help keep the students safe. This was a very big loss for us. She was a very talented golfer."

Smith said that Lawson liked TSU, but was removed in the interest of safety. Lawson then chose to transfer to Hampton, which had already granted her acceptance out of high school, with the intent on playing golf.

When Lawson arrived in Virginia, she said she enrolled in class and began efforts of joining the HU golf team, but was then informed she was unable to compete.

"I had talked to the coach and everything just as they were doing all of the rosters for all of the teams (when) they realized TSU had not yet released me," Lawson said. "They told me I could not play unless I was released. I couldn't believe it, especially after (Coach Knight) told me and my mother personally that he would release me."

However, Phillips wrote to *The Meter* in an e-mail on Tuesday, Sept. 26 that TSU athletic administration had decided to grant Lawson a release. She said that TSU handles releases on "case by case basis."

"The National Letter of Intent (scholarship) document explicitly explains to the student that if they choose to transfer, they will have to sit out a year at the transferring institution," explained Phillips. "However, in this case a release from TSU would allow Ms. Lawson to transfer and be eligible for competition immediately at a school that we feel competitive with."

When contacted by *The Meter* in regards to Phillips granting the release, Smith and Lawson said that they had received a contradictory letter on Tuesday, Sept. 26 via priority e-mail dated Monday, Sept. 25, denying the request.

"We will maintain our commitment and level of integrity in how we conduct business," stated the letter provided to *The Meter* by Smith. "If Alyson should decide that she would like to return to Tennessee State University, we will reinstate her scholarship."

9 Hole Timeline



Lawson said that following the written denial that "this whole thing is just a personal issue between me and the athletic department."

"I understand that there may be a rule prohibiting my release," Lawson said. "But what gets me is that I was previously told by the coach that I would be released."

On Monday, Oct. 2 Phillips explained the mix-up.

"Ms. Lawson did get an initial letter declining her request for a release, but we reconsidered," Phillips said. "We granted her release this last Sunday, Sept. 24. (TSU President) Dr. (Melvin N.) Johnson and I met, and it was agreed that a release would be granted to Ms. Lawson."

"The (TSU) compliance office faxed a release to Hampton on Sept. 28, so Lawson would be all set to attend school, obtain a golf scholarship, if they wanted to give her one, and compete," Phillips said.

Lawson said she said had fallen in love with TSU, but is excited about the release.

"I am really sorry that they couldn't just release me in the first place or talk to me to find out why I was leaving, but I am happy that I finally got released and may compete," Lawson said. "The run around was unnecessary, but at the same time I hold no grudges against TSU."

Sports Editor LaVonte Young and Staff Reporter Madelyn Ragland contributed to this report.

"I couldn't handle my daughter being there, knowing what I knew."

-Terry Smith
mother of Alyson Lawson

Coach brings inspiration, faith to the game

By **Taneka Matthews**
Contributing Reporter

Being a no-nonsense head coach of the Ohio Valley Conference-champion TSU volleyball team is probably the role Kathy Roulhac is best known for, but she reveals that she is so much more.

Roulhac wears the hats of a mother, provider, cancer survivor, motivator, and well-grounded Christian woman daily.

Life is a constant grind for Roulhac, who said she has a seven year-old daughter named Kayla that she has to get ready for school each day before coming to work to prepare for games and practices. Later she has to pick her daughter up from aftercare and make dinner for both her daughter and her mom who also lives with her.

"I have two full-time jobs," Roulhac said. "Days we have matches are worse, sometimes I only have enough time to get dinner done and leave right back out. It can get quite interesting."

Day after day, Roulhac said she gets up and does it all over again. But that's the cycle of her life and she loves it with a passion and said she gives God all the credit because she says it's because of Him she's able to make it.

Roulhac, a graduate of North Carolina A&T, came to TSU in 2004 after leaving a 10-year run as head coach for the Aggies. She finished her career at NCA&T with a record of 146-161 and, based off her last seasons with the Aggies, Roulhac was on pace to easily surpass a 500 record.



winning percentage.

So why come to TSU, a program whose story read the exact opposite?

"I was complacent at (NCA&T)," Roulhac said. "I was trying to make things happen, but just could never get to that next level. It was all about me at that time and I was no longer challenged there. I had to stop and ask God what He wanted me to do."

Being a North Carolina girl at heart, Roulhac said it was hard to consider leaving her home state. However, she said she knew that change was on the horizon and God had a vision for her life. Stepping out on faith she came to Nashville for a visit and said she fell in love with the city.

"I thought the people here were so nice," Roulhac said. "That's when I started to realize my purpose was to be at TSU to establish a winning program and to be a motivator in the girls' lives."

"I'm glad that she is my coach," said Meesha Jackson, a senior blocker for the Tigers. "She never goes back on her word. I respect that because I've learned and matured. I try to do what it takes."

Roulhac said she will be the first to admit that she is a strict coach and that it is all business when it comes to volleyball.

"I'd like to think of myself as a cool coach also, but business is first," Roulhac said. "There are times when I've told the girls let's go have some fun."

Roulhac said she tries to teach the team skills both on and off of the court. She tries to give them tools to compete, not only in sports, but also after college in the real world. She says she tries to motivate her girls through life experiences and personal issues.

"Something as simple as table etiquette could be the difference in a company hiring my girls or someone else" says Roulhac.

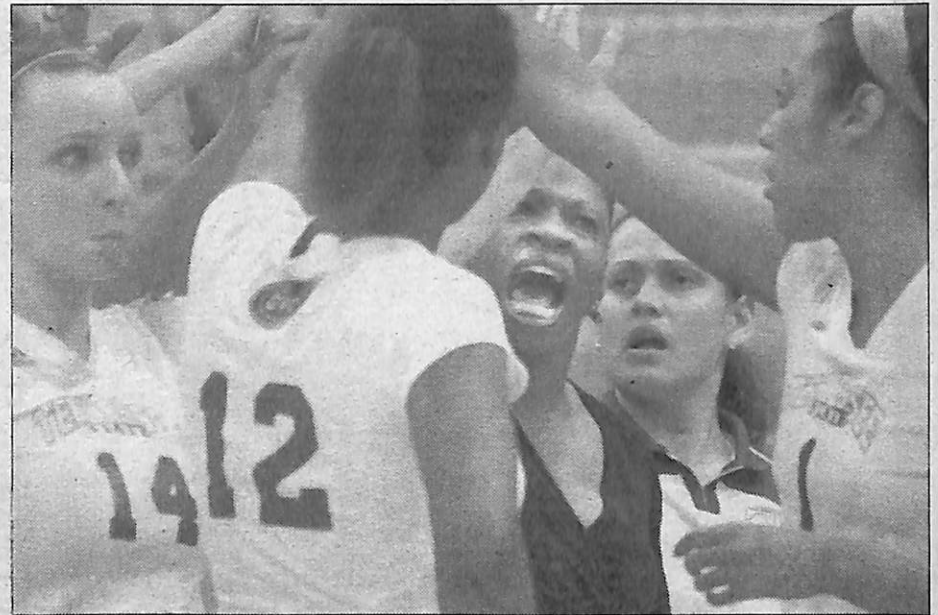
Jackson agrees.

"Off the court, she is a good friend," Jackson said. "She is a great person to talk to about pretty much anything. I talk about her a lot about my performance on the court and my life in general."

Roulhac said, "I've been through a lot in my life and if I can use that to help just one girl, I'm happy."

One of her most notable triumphs is beating cancer. Roulhac had breast cancer in 2001, despite having no family history of the disease.

"I learned how to be humble,"



PHOTOS BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Head volleyball coach Kathy Roulhac (center) charges up the team during a timeout at a recent home game against Belmont on Tuesday, Oct. 3

Roulhac said.

This presented a set of new challenges for her and she said she drew on the strength of God and her mom. After undergoing a mastectomy, Roulhac said she was back at work coaching four days later.

"I remember my mother telling me to get up," she said. "She didn't let me stay down."

Today, Roulhac is cancer free and now she uses the same mentality when she coaches and pushes her team to rise to the challenge and put its best foot forward.

During her collegiate athletic career at NCA&T she was named to the volleyball all-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) first team for four seasons, the only player in conference history to achieve that honor. Perhaps that may shed some light as to why she was also

named OVC Volleyball Coach of the Year for the 2005 season.

"It's not about me anymore," Roulhac said humbly. "I'd much rather concentrate on the team; they are the stars to me."

Coach Roulhac looks at the future as an opportunity to learn and grow and the chance to teach. She also hopes to sing one day.

"I love singing, I have such a passion for singing," Roulhac said. "I actually pursued it in college, even traveling to Atlanta with my demo."

"I want to be a positive force in the community. I'd like my voice heard on a national level. I believe my God given purpose is to help motivate people. I'll talk to anyone who will listen," Roulhac said.

"Off the court, she is a good friend. She is a great person to talk to about pretty much anything."

-Meesha Jackson

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