



THE METER

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Serving the Tennessee State University community since 1950

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'Lady Day' play makes campus debut

By Seth E. Davis
Staff Reporter

Despite a few expected obstacles to overcome, TSU's Department of Communications presented their spring production, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*.

A one-woman show directed by theatre professor Lawrence James, *Lady Day* also was the first time the department had partnered with the campus radio station, WTST.

James described it as, "a one person (tour de force) play with supporting characters, which profiles the life and music of jazz icon Billie Holiday."

WTST Station Manager Terra Bell, a senior communications major from Detroit, said, "In the past we have had a hard time connecting with (the) communications (department), but it was thought of by our Assistant Promotion Director Tobias Green."

James said he decided on the play after being familiar with it for years.

"The Area of Theatre in the Department of Communications made the decision to do a musical show because a musical had not been produced for several years," James said. "We wanted to provide a more well rounded program of styles of plays for our students."

Auditions for the show were held in the fall semester and actual practices were held towards the end of January.

"As soon as I heard about the audition, I got so excited," said Ashley Bishop, a sophomore communications major with an emphasis in theatre from Winterville, Ga., and the lead actress in the play. "(I) started preparing almost two weeks ahead of time."

"When I was told I got the part, you know I actually started to cry," Bishop continued. "It was very emotional for me because a one woman show is an

See "Lead" on page 13

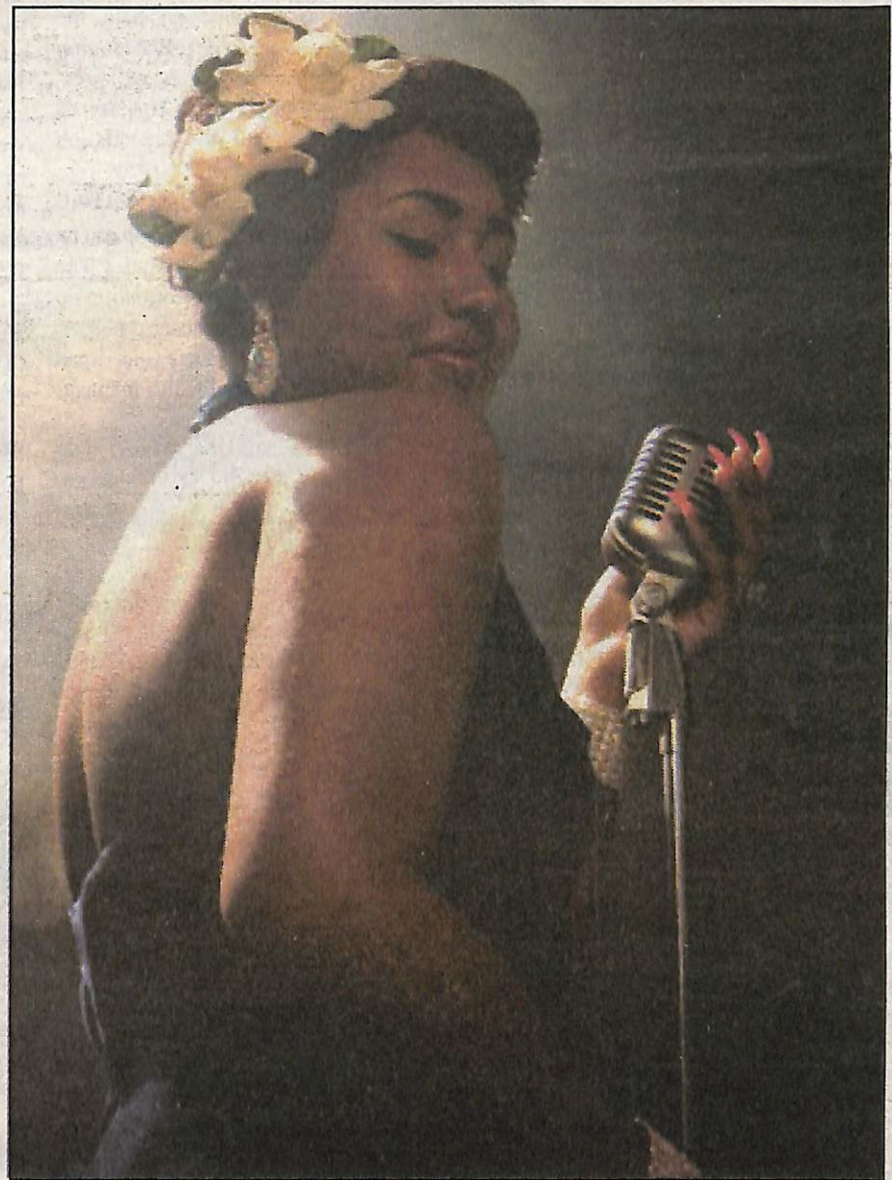


PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY BISHOP

TSU student Ashley Bishop stars in the campus production, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grille*.

Students decry poor service in campus food court

By Shannon Cohen
Staff Reporter

Foul attitudes; unpleasant food and sluggish service are what many students experience at The Sub. After surveying an estimated 177 students, *The Meter* found that many TSU

students are extremely displeased with the service, mainly due to the customer service.

According to students, the attitudes of employees are all too often rude and disrespectful. Some employees expressed in anonymity the attitudes are due to their working environment and the amount of students they

assist everyday; they also admitted they were informed of these working conditions prior to their being hired.

Many students, like Janee McKinney, a freshman mathematics major from Memphis, feel as if they're giving the employees a hard

See "Students" on page 3

Toddler trapped in well for 27 hours

A toddler was rescued Wednesday, March 25, after being trapped inside a narrow well for 27 hours in the Indian capital of New Delhi.

The toddler fell 45 feet into the well while she was playing in a village near Agra, a northern Indian city located on the outskirts of New Delhi.

The child was taken to a hospital to be checked by doctors and is now doing well.

Family beaten to death

A family of five was found dead in their Iowa City home beaten to death.

The autopsy results show that Sheryl Sueppel and her four children died from blunt force trauma to their upper torsos and heads.

The Iowa City police believe Steven Sueppel, a former bank executive, indicted by a federal grand jury in February for money laundering, killed his wife and his four children sometime late Sunday night or Monday morning.

Investigators also believe Sueppel killed his wife first and then tried to kill himself and the children with carbon monoxide in the garage.

According to cbsnews.com, after calling police, Sueppel crashed his van into a concrete pillar on Interstate 80 a few miles east of his house, which

caused the van to explode into flames as an intentional final act of suicide.

Compiled By Acquanetta G. Donnell Jr.

Campus celebrates Health Awareness Month

In observance of Minority Health Awareness month, which is April, the Avon Williams Campus in conjunction with the Queen Washington Health Center will present "Living Healthy as Your Life Depends on it!"

The health fair is scheduled for April 1 from 5-8 p.m. on the Avon Williams Campus. The health fair will provide information on breast and cervical cancer, domestic violence, date rape, tissue and organ donation and lifestyle health management.

STD-Free Collision, an organization that conducts health collaborations with other community organizations, will be in attendance.

This fair is open to students, faculty and staff from both campuses. For more information, please contact Nurse Walretta Chandler at ext. 5294 or Dean William Hytche at ext. 7526.

Mid-South regional alumni conference held on campus

The National Alumni Association MidSouth Regional Conference, hosted by the alumni football team and the Rho Psi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., was held over the weekend on TSU's main campus.

Drawing more than 100 alumni to the campus, the conference consisted of several sessions, including a showcase of TSU student academic success and talents and a scholarship luncheon in which representatives from each alumni chapter in the region donated funds.

Following the luncheon, awards were given to alumni chapters that fell in the following categories: Chapter Membership Award, Chapter Donation Award and the 2008 MidSouth Regional Award.

Out of three awards given, the alumni chapter of Rho Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., received two of the awards.

The Chapter Donation Award was held until the donations are calculated.

Upon calculation of the donations that were received, the committee plans to send the award to the appropriate chapter.

Members of the forensics team, Clarence Ball and Darius Montgomery, and Miss TSU Orna Jones entertained during the luncheon.

Compiled By Acquanetta G. Donnell Jr. •

World & Campus Briefs

Events Calendar

Monday	Wednesday
Kappa Midnight Breakfast Cafeteria 9 p.m.	Noon-time Activities Courtyard 12 noon
Tuesday	
Kappa Karnival Courtyard 12 noon	
3-on-3 Tournament Gentry Courts 5 p.m.	

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Ashley McDonald
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Marshall A. Latimore

THE METER

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

Tennessee State University
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd.
Campus Box 1246
Nashville, Tenn. 37209-1561

Phone : 615-963-7530
Fax: 615-963-5452
E-mail: themeter@hotmail.com
Web site: www.tsumeter.com

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 results while reflecting the university's multicultural student body.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
The Meter invites submission by all members of the Tennessee State University community. Timelines and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

- All contributions must be typed and sent by e-mail.
- Opinions and letters should not exceed 400 words.
- The Meter reserves the right to reject letters, articles or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

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THE METER

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Check out The Meter's reports on upcoming changes to The Sub and visits from department chair hopefuls online at www.tsumeter.com.

3-day Weather Forecast



Monday
Mostly sunny
High: 73°



Tuesday
T-Storms
High: 73°



Wednesday
Sunny
High: 62°

Source: Weather.com

Students complain of workers' attitudes

Continued from page 1

time just by asking the employees to perform tasks in which are ed in their job description.

"I don't like their attitudes. I didn't ask them to work for Aramark, and I did not ask them to not get an education," McKinney said.

Student Sean Lester, a freshman mechanical engineering major from Nashville, said, "Every time I come to the sub, [the employees] have an attitude, like I offended them or something by asking them to do their job."

Another excuse given by employees were that by the 200th customer, the employees are worn-out and a little agitated, but some students say that as soon as the doors open, they are greeted with the same repulsive attitudes they face at lunchtime.

Mykal Brown, a freshman design major from Nashville, said he understands their working conditions, but, "They can do better."

According to surveys done by *The Meter* staff, 37 percent of students asked are satisfied with the food service and only 27 percent are satisfied with the customer service.

Students also claim that one reason why employees are unable to perform their duties up to par is due to the fact they are constantly trying to multitask by babysitting while preparing the food.

"Sometimes, I even see kids running around in the back," said Lauren Black, a freshman commercial music major from Dallas.

In addition to the employees' inability to multitask, the students said that not only do they have to suffer through the bad attitudes behind the window, but the food is horrible.

According to students, if its not one thing, it's another and the food is either sloppy, undone, burnt or the wrong order.

"Sometimes, the food is undone and nasty, and they still have an attitude," said Talisa Sampson, a freshman biology major from Atlanta.

It is said that Burger King and Taco Bell will be replaced with a place for grilled food, such as Philly cheese steaks and a deli shop similar to subway.

These vendors are supposed to make the working environment cooler as opposed to the 300-degree broiler used in Burger King.

The food is also supposed to be quicker to cook and easier to make. This, in which, will be a solution to the bad customer service and slow service.

According to *The Meter* survey, the average rating for The Sub's service was a four out of a possible 10.

James Cooke, food service director, was not available for comment at the time of publication.

Student-led revival ministers to campus

By **Acquanetta G. Donnell Jr.**
News Editor

The love for God crowded the T.E. Poag auditorium during the inaugural TSU Campus Revival hosted by Every Nation Campus Ministry over the weekend.

Spearheaded by Bryan Barnett, a junior English major from Nashville, the two-day revival attracted more than 50 guests.

Opening with praise and worship by Levy Q. Barnes, a member of Every Nation Campus Ministry and alumni of TSU, the service was ready to begin.

"I knew that the second night was going to be blessed because Pastor Brooks was relaying the message," Barnett said.

Rice Brooks, pastor of Bethel

World Outreach Church in Brentwood, Tenn., founder of Every Nation Campus Ministry and author of *Change the Campus, Change the World* was the guest speaker for the second night service.

Brooks began conducting campus revivals in January 1979, going from colleges across the nation and eventually to venturing to Germany. Relating his message to college students, Brooks focused his sermon on the struggles that not only college students face, but also people in the world.

"Life is defined as a struggle," Brooks said during the relaying of his message to the audience. "Struggle is not the flesh and blood, but it is the spirit."

Brooks supported his sermon with three scriptures: Corinthians 10:3-5,

Ephesians 6:10-12 and II Timothy 2:22, in which he allowed members in the audience to read. Once read, the pastor provided vivid examples for each scripture so they could be understood.

"The main thing is that every student has a struggle and they need the strength and encouragement," Brooks said. "When a revival is held, there is an exchange of weakness for strength."

Closing with a prayer by Barnett, youth pastor at Bethel World Outreach and former Tennessee Titan player, the revival was determined to be a major success.

Benjamin Jones, a campus minister said, "The main thing I saw (was) students willing to go as far as they need to go to see what they believe spread on this campus. (Getting) the love of a few people is truly a special feeling."

Campus fraternity donates wins from national step show

By **Seth E. Davis**
Staff Reporter

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Fund, the Hershel King Scholarship Award Fund and the Martha O' Bryan Community Center are among the charities that will receive funds from the Beta Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

The fraternity plans to donate their entire \$3,000 in prize winnings as apart of their community service initiatives.

The prize money was a result of the chapter's step team winning second place in the 19th annual Florida Invitational Step Show on Feb. 23.

According to Jason Brewer, program and events coordinator for Gentry Center Complex and Beta Omicron chapter advisor, "the winnings have not been received from the contest. However, we hope to receive them (soon)."

Approximately half of the winnings will be donated to the Martha O' Bryan Community Center, where the chapter performs community service weekly and fundraises for annually through their Bike-a-thon that takes place before the Southern Heritage Classic.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Fund will receive \$1,000 in order to erect a memorial to the slain Civil Rights leader. According to Brewer, each year the chapter donates around \$1,000 to the fund. The Beta Omicron chapter is ranked second in under-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISMAILA BADJIE

Members of the Beta Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and adviser Jason Brewer pose after winning a national step show.

graduate chapters on Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., for having donated the most money to the memorial fund. Morehouse College in Atlanta is ranked at number one.

"We donate in order to pay homage to the legacy of our fraternity brother Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said Daniel Hibbert, a senior mechanical engineering major from Lansing, Mich., and Beta Omicron chapter president. "Chapters are encouraged (to participate) by the national organization."

The remaining \$500 will be going towards further community service initiatives. Two hundred dollars will go towards Alpha League, which is a little league football team the chapter partners with and provides mentoring as well as sponsorship.

The remaining \$300 will go towards the Hershel King Scholarship

Fund. According to Brewer, the chapter is trying to start an endowment in the fallen brother's name.

The Morehouse College chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., won the step show and were awarded \$5,000.

"I don't feel hurt at all that we got second," said Warren Burke a junior accounting major from Memphis, and member of the step team. "I'm just blessed to be apart of the experience."

Hibbert said, "It's important because it gave us an opportunity to take something that we did well and turn it into something that will positively impact the community."

Jasmine Lockland, a sophomore biology major from Columbus, Ga., said, "I think it's great that the chapter donated money to those charities. They set a positive example for the rest of the male students on campus."

What We Think Remodel the Sub, but fix the service

After approximately 18 years of living at home, high school students get used to having hot home-cooked meals served with a loving heart. Even when dining at restaurants, consumers expect to walk into an establishment, be greeted politely, receive timely service and partake in a meal that is worth the hard-earned dollars that go to pay for it.

But then, eager college students come to TSU. The Sub, one of our high traffic dining options, is the prime choice for students not only because of its central location but also the logic behind it.

The Sub's concept, at least as *The Meter* has observed, is to provide students on the go with a quick stop to pick up something nourishing to help them get through busy days of classes, organizational meetings and other extracurricular activities.

Now, theoretically, this is a great idea; but, the execution is completely off. When entering The Sub, students are greeted with scowling faces, bad atti-

tudes and unprofessional behavior.

It's not uncommon to hear employees screaming expletives, having their children running around, being rude to customers and taking their sweet time to provide their less-than-mediocre service.

After standing in line for anywhere from five to 45 minutes, depending on the time of day, students are forced to consume overpriced versions of fast food that they'd be better off going to the actual restaurants where they can consume for less and also possibly get a "Thank you" or "Please, come again" in the process.

The employees would like you to believe that the reason for the long lines is because all of the food is made to order, but brands like Burger King and Taco Bell are not known for their "made fresh just for you" approach to business.

They are FAST food chains, but apparently they missed a link when they decided to lend their nationally known names to TSU. Students probably would not complain as much if they at least did

their jobs badly with a smile. It makes no sense why at the busiest time of day employees are seen standing idly as if they are doing students a favor by simply being there.

At the same time, long lines of hungry and irritable students are forced to either wait and deal with bad attitudes or go hungry. God forbid, some of those students have classes to rush off to attend.

One should certainly not count on being on time if you choose to have Burger King, Taco Bell or Pizza Hut for lunch. A word of advice to Sub employees: in case you forgot, you get paid to be there and to do your job effectively.

As the contracts for Burger King and Taco Bell that will be expiring this summer, it's no surprise that the administration is looking at other dining options. It will be good to have a little variety in selection.

Some students may be a little thrown off by introducing names that they have never heard like Montague's Deli and

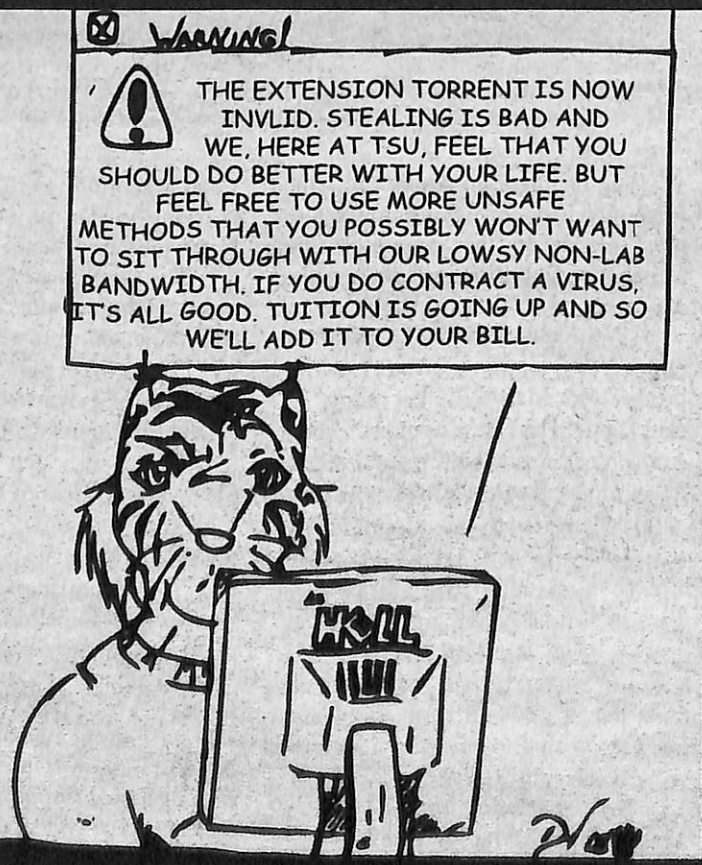
Grill Works, the two Aramark brands that administration is looking at to replace Burger King and Taco Bell. The familiarity of the popular chain brands is what attracts some to The Sub. It would definitely be hard for the food to get any worse; but, what about the employees' bad attitudes?

As Aramark seeks to give us tastier, more affordable food selections, let's just hope that they follow suit in hiring employees that are capable of doing their jobs well instead of leaving a bad taste in the mouth of students. Improvement on the actual food would be wonderful, but no one wants a bowl of heaven served by the devil.

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Tigre

By David Houston



Tigerville

By Orterius Burnett



TSU scholars deserve their praise



Cara Anthony
Editor in Chief

FROM WHERE I SIT

It's not difficult for students to get lost in the college experience.

In fact, it's easy considering the fact that these years are full of new experiences and opportunities. Although college may be overwhelming at points, it is important to remember the purpose of why we are here.

Some students become too focused on activities, clubs and organizations but fail to excel in the classroom. They would sometimes rather spend more time getting ready for the next big party, rather than

getting prepared for finals.

Getting a good education should always remain at the top of a student's list. Sadly, I believe the emphasis that is placed on being a good scholar has lessened over the years.

I will acknowledge the fact the TSU's Honda Campus All-Star Team and the University Honors Program have come a long way in terms of doing more on campus. They have stepped outside of their doors and attempted to reach the campus as a whole.

Often times we celebrate student athletes, leaders and performers but those who excel academically can sometimes slip through the cracks and not get publicly recognized until their graduation day.

I find it refreshing when we celebrate our academic leaders on campus and give them the credit they deserve.

Last week, the Golden Key

International Honour Society inducted more than 30 students. I believe this is commendable on many levels considering the lack of recognition they receive.

Golden Key is among many honor societies on campus, but may be the most recognizable because of their dual commitment to scholarship and service. Golden Key's presence on TSU's campus speaks to the need for there to be more scholarship at all HBCUs.

The time has come for black students to excel not only amongst themselves, but with everyone.

I encourage the student body to continue academic success and to gain more interest in scholarship. There is nothing wrong with acknowledging the great works of the many organizations on campus, but we must remember to honor those who are doing well in academic areas as well.

**Do you have
an opinion
or comment?
Contact
Opinions
editor Ashley
McDonald at
x5555.**

Define your success from one goal to the next



**Ashley
McDonald**
Opinions Editor

MY HUMBLE OPINION

Receiving a scholarship, being accepted to your top choice college, finally getting into the Greek organization that you have been dying to get into, graduating from college and finally getting that dream job—all of these things are notable accomplishments; when they happen, there is certainly a cause for celebration.

But once you have marveled in the success of such accomplishments, what do you do next?

People often measure themselves based on how many degrees they have, by affiliations with certain organizations or by the number of affiliations they possess. But what happens once you have accumulated all of these "resume builders"?

On March 29, I attended the 25th annual Nelson J. Senter Scholarship

Luncheon in TSU's Women's Building auditorium, hosted by the Eta Beta Sigma chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

This event honored six high school seniors who are to receive scholarships as they attend their respective colleges.

The speaker at this luncheon was Jamie Jenkins, principal of Nashville's Whites Creek Comprehensive High School and member of Phi Beta Sigma.

Jenkins told listeners how grew up in the projects of east Nashville and rose above the odds to receive four college degrees. He went on to become the youngest principal in the Metropolitan Nashville Public School system at the age of 31.

During his speech, he spoke on lighting a fire in yourself to motivate you to accomplish all of your hopes and dreams. He said success showcases accomplishment, but greatness is remembered.

Success is subjective. Each person's success is based on the goals he or she has set in life. If a person's ultimate goal in life is to graduate from high school and get an \$11 per hour job, then an associ-

ate's degree and a \$15.00 per hour job is success to him or her.

But for someone who dreams of receiving their doctorate and being an expert in his or her respective field, a master's degree and an associate professorship is not going to cut it.

Greatness is objective. This standard is not something that an individual has the power to alter. Whether you realize it or not, other people will decide whether you exist amongst the greats.

If no one else recognizes what you are doing, then no one can know about it. Until what you are doing has an impact on other people, greatness has not been achieved.

It does not matter what you choose to do throughout life. Simply being a part of something that is prestigious does not make you prestigious by association.

All that means is that you looked like what they were looking for at the time. Your greatness comes from what you do once you have acquired personal successes.

Complacency is a problem. It's OK

to be happy with what you are doing in the present.

But when you cannot get past the present, the world will continue to move and leave you behind to marvel in your success.

If you aspire to be great, you must work THROUGH SUCCESS instead of working TO SUCCESS.

Success is a destination. It's a place you plan to go to. Everything you do leads up to making it to that particular location. Once you get there, you're done.

A journey, on the other hand, is proactive. You make a lot of different stops and partake in different experiences and activities. Therefore, greatness is a journey made up of several destinations.

So, when you sit down and look at your resume, ask yourself an important question: Do all of those bullet points show your personal achievements filled with meaningless memberships and affiliations? Or, are you building some things that will act as stepping-stones toward greatness?

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Reporter finds fault with execution of Sigma Week



DeShanee Miner
Senior Staff Reporter

SOUNDING OFF

Get geeked! Get geeked! It's Greek weeks! TSU campus has been through four Greek weeks prior to this year's Sigma week. Iota, Delta, Omega and Zeta weeks all pretty much happened with maybe one or two mishaps. But once Sigma week came around, there seemed to be problems on every horizon.

On Monday, the talent show gave foreshadowing to the problems for the rest of the week. Were try-outs held for this? If so, was there any screening process for the talent that ended up on stage? Before the event even started, the packed out house saw scantily clad girls running around. Also, this was a program called *UnCut*. Why were there children there? The better question is why are they on

stage? Oh the fall of urban youth. It was then shut down.

On Tuesday, the Sigma's hosted their Women's Appreciation Dinner. I guess the biggest problem was that B.L.A.C.K. Inc. successfully hosted their Women's Appreciation the week before.

The men of Phi Beta Sigma escorted the ladies into the Women's Building, but only after the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta were already in there for about 20 minutes.

The members introduced themselves and let the ladies know that they were available to serve them. A member read part one of a very provocative poem that continued later after the food was served.

Oh the food! The food was fit for patrons at a super bowl party. The menu included two chicken wings, two meatballs, cheese cubes, one strawberry, some pineapple pieces and blue punch. I'm not sure what the food budget was, but it should be reevaluated for next year.

The topping on the sundae would be the fact that Miss Phi Beta Sigma was on the floor serving and picking up plates dressed in a t-shirt and jeans while the

men of Phi Beta Sigma were in suits and bringing their guest drink refills.

After the food was served the second part of the poem was read. Next thing you know...It was shut down. The D@m* Near Naked Jam was over before it started. The venue was amazing! It could hold about 3000 people.

This was a step up from the sold out crowd that congregated last year at Club 615. The trouble started at the "lines" at the door. The line meant for those in the Zeta Phi Beta Sigma family could barely get in. All of a sudden, a bus pulls up and NEMESIS gets out. Yes, Nemesis, basically a fight team is at the party to serve as extra security. Ok, where does this seem like a good idea?

Before the Nemesis gets good and in the door, they are fighting with someone in line. WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING IN LINE? Then next thing you know, there is the sound of the taser, and a bouncer shaking his can of pepper spray.

So if you did get into the party at about 9 p.m. then you got a good 2 hours of partying. You saw nearly naked bodies,

Young Buck and even a few other oddities that were entertaining. But at about around 10:30, the trouble started. The fights, tasers, pepper spray and running mobs stopped the party at about 11 p.m. It was shut down.

Friday brought the probate. Now we can call this Check Fest 2008. Never has there been so much time taken out to just diss other organizations. Will the same thing happen at the Alpha probate?

Congratulations on being Greek by the way. I say it because that's what I got out of it. Rather than focusing the majority of your show on other organizations, can we get something a little more entertaining?

How about telling us something about Phi Beta Sigma other than the fact that you hate on the rest of the NPHC frats? Who ever would have thought of that? Good thing I stopped eating meat because I don't have time for beef!

My question though, hey Mr. Pitts, why this week and why now? Watch out A PHI A and K A PSI!•

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Just wanted to know why the Tigerbelles winning the OVC Championships didn't make it to *The Meter*. TSU should promote all sports.

Thank you,
Robbin, Former Tigerbelle

Dear Editor,

Maybe you should consider posting a story on the 2nd amendment conflict that is taking place in D.C.

ABC news had a story today on the matter and a new proposal that would allow professors to carry handguns.

Sincerely,
John

Dear Editor,

Dr. A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert, 56, provost at Central State University, in Wilberforce, Ohio, died at University of Pennsylvania Hospital early Wednesday, March 12.

Sincerely,
Bill Masten

ONLINE FEEDBACK

University launches first-ever student giving campaign
Aimee Savage

posted March 20 at 9:42 a.m.

I am a student at Sweet Briar College where we are also in the process of launching a Student Giving Program. In February, we completed our first Community Campaign and Philanthropy Week, which was successful.

I was wondering if I could have the contact information for the head of the Student Giving Committee or Program you have began. I am in the process of collecting as much information as I can about how to start this program and how to have it be a success.

University to receive \$20,000
Pamela E. Foster

posted March 17 at 9:42 a.m.

Yea, James! Way to well represent TSU. Thanks, Rechele, for bringing us this great story.

Danny Glover

posted March 18 at 1:00 a.m.

I concur with the above comment... It's refreshing to see TSU students working hard to bring money to the school. As James said in the article, I to hope the money is put to good use....

Again, CONGRATS JAMES!

B.L.A.C.K. Inc. appreciates women right

Pamela E. Foster

posted March 24 at 9:11 a.m.

Nice expression of feelings with details to back it up. Too bad there's no story on the event, including specifics of why Lipscomb was named Woman of the Year and the extraordinary event she both led that night and leads at the end of each of her classes. Now, that's a TSU story.

Dawn

posted March 27 at 5:04 p.m.

I wish I didn't even go to the "Women's Appreciation" hosted by the Sigmas. It was so bootleg. The food SUCKED!!!! Some of the chicken wasn't done! We were not feeling appreciated. And who let's your queen do work at the dinner?

That was horrible! Rethink this please, before you attempt to do it again! There were no awards, no honors and no appreciation. Thanks B.L.A.C.K. Inc. for showing the campus how to appreciate women!!!

Tigerbelles win Indoor title
Kenitra Woods

posted March 26 at 2:49 p.m.

Thanks for the article, but please note that Coach Cheese's last name is spelled CHEESEBOROUGH and Tigerbelle is one word. Thanks!

Sister friends trace friendship back to freshman year

Pamela E. Foster

posted March 24 at 9:21 a.m.

Another great piece by Rechele. Every story should be such a detailed look at a slice of TSU life.

Marsha M. Thornton

posted March 24 at 11:41 a.m.

Ladies: This is absolutely beautiful! Stay together and always take time for your wonderful friendship and the contributions you will give to this world as a powerful foursome. Love, Mom.

Get Tested

Alona Stafford

posted 3/19/08 @ 9:01 AM CST

This story is written extremely well. More people need to hear stories like this because it's so crucial to the preservation of our culture and our people. Good Job!•

There's no such thing as conservative nudity



Kenneth Cummings
Senior Visuals Editor

SOUNDING OFF

I love my job, and I love what I do. Photography is my passion. Whenever you see me, you'll probably see my camera. This past week alone, I took over 1,200 photos.

People know that when I take pictures, they will likely end up on Facebook, one of the largest social networks on the Web. Because of this, I have one of highest, if not the highest, number of visits to photo albums among all of my friends on Facebook.

On Wednesday, March 26, I decided to take my camera into a party for the first time! The name of the party was "The D@m* Near Naked Jam", which is one of the signature parties during Sigma week at TSU.

Usually, I'm against taking pictures in a club, but this was a new venue. I wanted to show how packed the place

was. And yes, I wanted to take photos of those that came to the party.

As people were coming into the party, I took pictures of them. I captured people outside of the party in the male and female lines and of my fraternity and sorority.

I took pictures of Young Buck and the crowd. I took pictures because that is what I do.

As with any other event that I decide to document with photos, I uploaded them on to Facebook. As soon as I posted them, the comments began.

So far, only one of the photos has been taken off by Facebook, and only one of my friends asked me to take his picture off. Did I remove it?

No, I didn't because the person who asked me to take it off was not the only person in the picture. So why would I take it off for that one person?

When you're in public, you are open to have your picture taken—and in my opinion, there is a strong chance that it will end up on Facebook, MySpace or any other Internet outlet.

I'm not telling you not to go out to parties, and no, I'm not trying to scare you; however, I do want you to be aware

of your surroundings.

I'm the one behind the lens. If you don't want your picture taken, then don't ask me and don't pose for the camera.

If you want it off and you're in the picture by yourself, give me a reason to take it off.

If you happen to be in one of the pictures that I take and you're either with a lot of people or you're walking by and I take the shot, the picture may not be taken off.

Once a picture has been taken or a video has been recorded of you in a public setting, you have lost all rights to that photo or video. The photographer or videographer can do with it whatever he or she wants. All you can do is make a request.

Whether he or she chooses to honor that request is at his or her discretion. You can rant and rave all you want, but you made the choice to walk out of the house and dress or behave a certain way. Therefore, you have to deal with the consequences of that choice.

In the 90's this was not an issue. People could go out in public in any fashion they wanted and would pretty much only have to worry about the people at

the particular venue seeing what he or she was doing or wearing.

If there were pictures or videos, the viewership was limited to the people that had it and those within the circle that they chose to share it with.

But as technology grows, accessibility to your personal life also grows.

With sites such as Facebook, MySpace and YouTube, the entire world has access to what you may have done or worn to a particular party if it was captured on camera.

In a study by Infotrends Research Group in 2000, they predicted digital camera sales would grow from 6.7 million units then to 42 million by 2005.

At that rate of growth, you can only imagine how many there are three years later. For those who do not have digital cameras, there are few phones that are made that don't have a camera built in.

Keep in mind the image that you portray when you step out of the house to go anywhere.

If you are worried about who may see you in an unfavorable situation, you may want to rethink your choices. You never know who might be aiming their lens at you. •

THE METER

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BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Monday, March 31, 2008

Volume 58 Issue 33



**M. Antonio
Silas**
Business & Technology
Editor

MONEY BYTES

Be confident in interviews

For most students, the ultimate goal upon graduation may be to land that perfect job opportunity with that law firm or that company that they've aspired towards throughout the matriculation of college.

The post college job interviews for these dream positions can be the determining factor of whether or not that job remains a dream or becomes reality.

Trudy Bourgeois, president and CEO of the Center for Work Force Excellence, explains that companies use panel interviews to attain multiple viewpoints on a candidate instead of allowing an interview to be completely one-sided.

While this may work well for the company doing the interviewing, it can be difficult for the potential employee being interviewed. With that in mind, these tips could help out when you go before the board.

The first thing to remember is that every person on the panel has his or her own separate agenda. As a collective, the idea is to review the applicant. Each person may have separate challenges or questions that need to be addressed or answered.

Make sure to do research on each respective person that is conducting the interview. It could help out in the long run.

The next thing to remember is to tailor answers to each individual on the panel. Each representative from different areas of the company need different answers to questions, so make sure to take the time out to answer appropriately.

Last, but not least, is to make a connection with everyone in the room. Make sure to engage everyone with eye contact. Don't think because there is a large amount of people in a room that a personal connection with each person cannot be made. It's just like being in a business meeting with several individuals; reach out to make the initial connection and take it from there. •

Companies, news outlets alert tech consumers of preloaded gadget viruses

By Shannon Cohen
Staff Reporter

Refraining from downloading porn or opening suspicious e-mail attachments are now just not enough to prevent viruses.

Pre-installed viruses are currently corrupting some of today's most popular electronic devices. Many computer users are now at risk of obtaining viruses by simply plugging up a new device to their PC.

The Associated Press recently reviewed several cases of devices containing pre-loaded viruses in Apple iPods, digital picture frames sold by Target and Best Buy stores, as well as Tom-Tom navigation gear.

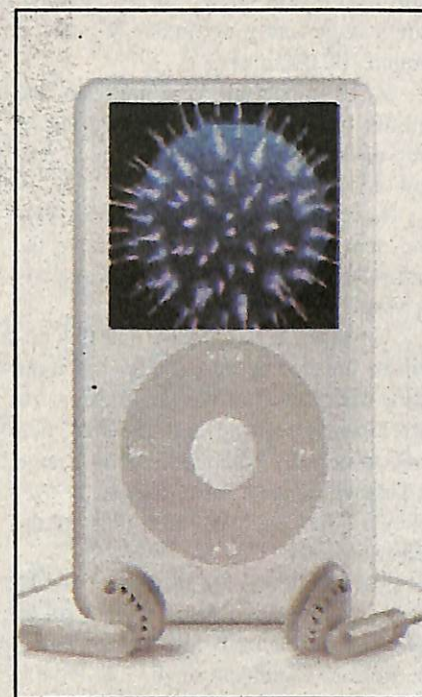
"I haven't personally had any issues with viruses on software," said Erika Hayes, a business administration major from Memphis.

Majority of the infected devices came from China, where many companies have turned in order to maintain low prices. China was also found to be the sources of toxic toothpaste, poisonous pet food and toy trains coated in lead paint.

Although it may seem as if these devices are being purposely sabotaged by hackers or Chinese factories, the problem is actually due to careless workers.

If the virus is introduced at an earlier stage of production, meaning it was caused by a corrupt employee or a hacker, when software is uploaded to the gadget, then the problems could be far more serious and widespread.

Unfortunately, due to secrecy kept between electronic makers and the companies they hire to build their prod-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TECHDIGEST.TV & UNWIREDVIEW.COM

Both iPods and TomTom navigation devices, among other tech toys, have been alarming consumers because of preloaded viruses.

ucts, it's almost impossible to track the virus and how many infected devices have been sold.

Security experts say the software is apparently being loaded at the final stage of production when gadgets are pulled from the assembly line and plugged in to a computer to make sure everything is properly working.

If the testing computer is infected by a worker who used it to charge his own infected iPod, the digital germ can spread to anything else that gets plugged in.

"I've had my iPod load viruses onto my computer," said Trevor Brown, an engineering major from Atlanta. "I ended up having to clear my hard drive."

Although irresponsible workers cause the current infections detected, this mistake can give hackers ideas.

Computer users with out-of-date antivirus software may sadly already be prone to infected viruses due to the software's inability to detect it.

Luckily, consumers can protect themselves from nearly all factory-loaded infections by simply running

an antivirus program and keeping it up-to-date.

Most antivirus software check for notorious viruses and suspicious behaviors that indicate an attack by malicious code, whether they're from a download or a gadget attached to the PC via USB cable.

All companies who have sold the infected products simply said the problem has been fixed.

Best Buy officials said the company has pulled its affected China-made frames from the shelves and took "corrective action" against its vendor. No details about the "corrective action" have been revealed.

Sam's Club and Target executives said they are investigating complaints but have not been able to verify whether their frames were contaminated.

Legal experts say manufacturing infections could possibly become a big headache for retailers that are still selling or sold infected devices and the companies that make them, if customers can demonstrate that they were harmed by the viruses. •

Mozilla's Firefox 3 expected as early as June

Internet users should circle the month of June because Mozilla has stated in a discussion last week that that's when they will be releasing Firefox 3.

However, until then, you can still download a beta version of the software, which is currently at version 4 and has around 700,000 users.

It is important to point out that Firefox has 160 million people using its Web browser and this is just a small portion of its base.

According to Mike Schroepfer, vice president of engineering at Mozilla, the first release candidate is to ship as early as May.

However, it is unlikely that this one will be finished because the RC1 is at the point where most of the larger extension developers go ahead and re-work their code to be fully compatible with Firefox 3. This will make it easier to transfer over many of the popular extensions to the newer browser.

The public release of Beta 5 will be out the first week of April, which will be the last beta release before Firefox enters the Release Candidate stage.

Microsoft's Internet Explorer; how-

ever, has released their first beta for Microsoft's Internet Explorer 8 or IE8 as it is commonly referred to.

This was released on March 5th, and according to Microsoft focuses on security, ease of use and improvements in RSS, CSS and Ajax support along with significantly better support of Web standards compared to its predecessor.

As a result of better standards compliance, IE8 will break compatibility with Web pages that were designed around the bugs and quirks of previous versions. But they look to ease the trouble this may cause by including an option to turn off all the changes that would cause a site to break down and not work.

IE8 is still in its early stages, and the major corporation has not announced a final release. At this point, one can only wait patiently for it arrive to try it out for his or herself.

Photoshop moves the Internet

On Thursday, Adobe launched a basic version of the popular photo-editing

software Photoshop for free online.

San Jose, Calif.-based Adobe Systems Inc. says that it hopes to boost its namesake recognition among a new generation of consumers who edit, store and share photos online.

Now while Photoshop is designed for professionals, who are trained, the online beta version is simpler to use and easier for most people to learn.

They provide an option for consumers to make comments and suggestions that Adobe says will be taken into account for future upgrades.

The program, which is completely Web-based, allows consumers to use it with any type of computer, operating system and browser.

This provides a flexibility that the individual software package cannot emulate. And, registered a person will have access to his or her accounts from any computer.

At the moment there are many kinds of software available for use online in a trend known as "software as a service," or "cloud computing."

These software programs include e-mail programs such as Yahoo and Google mail, which have expanded greatly since their inception. Even today a consumer can find software services similar to the ones Adobe is starting to offer.

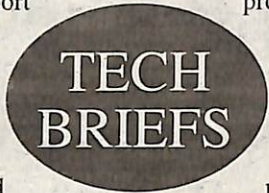
Adobe can also expect stiff competition from Shutterfly.com, which garners over 32 million page views a day. Despite this large number of views, it shudders in comparison to the proverbial 50 thousand pound gorilla photobucket.com.

This site averages 1.5 billion views a day according to alexa.com, and is ranked in the top 30 for most visited sites daily in the world.

The whole reason behind Adobe's move online is to market another product that is currently being worked on.

Using this strategy they will generate up-sell opportunities with the hopes that some of the customers will move to boxed software like its \$99 Photoshop Elements or to a subscription-based version of Express.

It's as the saying goes "If you can't beat them, join them," and this is just one way to do just that.



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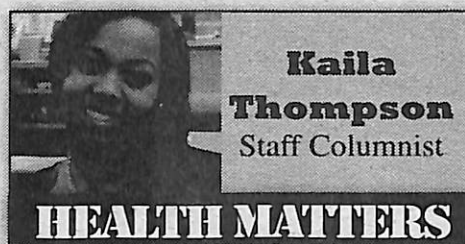
THE METER The Meter

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ARTS CULTURE

Monday, March 31, 2008

Volume 58 Issue 33



**Kaila
Thompson**
Staff Columnist

HEALTH MATTERS

Black women face great danger

We live in a world where the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to plague. Women are being diagnosed at increasing rates, with women of color being at the forefront leading the spike in diagnosis.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, HIV/AIDS diagnoses for African American women were 23 times the rate of their Caucasian counterparts in 2005. During recent years, women ages 15 to 39 have received the majority of diagnoses.

Recently, the TSU chapter of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. (NACWC) hosted a pajama brunch in honor of Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day held at Ford Residential Complex. The event was in conjunction with community partner, W.O.M.E.N. (Women On Maintaining Education and Nutrition). Cara Autman, TSU alum, advocated for women's health.

"(The speaker) was very empowering, taking her disease and using it as a tool helped me realize that the disease isn't as far away from home as I thought," said Rasheedah Omar, a senior criminal justice major from Detroit, Mich. and president of N.A.C.W.C. "Being that she contracted the disease from her husband of several years, that scared me."

Women have to consistently protect themselves against the transmission of HIV/AIDS. Women's Health (www.womenshealth.gov) states that knowing the ABCs--abstinence, being faithful, and condom use--is a key factor in prevention. Taking initiative means talking about it with partners and peers, continually getting tested, and spreading the word.

Women, especially younger women, have a higher risk of getting HIV/AIDS according to Women's Health, because of lax condom use and a lack of communica-

See "Black" on page 15

TSU professor brings film festival to campus

By Gregory Brand, Jr.
Arts & Culture Editor

A combined effort between TSU's departments of Language, Literature, and Philosophy and Africana Studies has yielded a film festival that is first on TSU's campus.

Featuring films from French-speaking African nations, the Francophone Film Festival was brought to campus in an effort give TSU students access to yet-unreleased films and to provide a glimpse at art that features black stories.

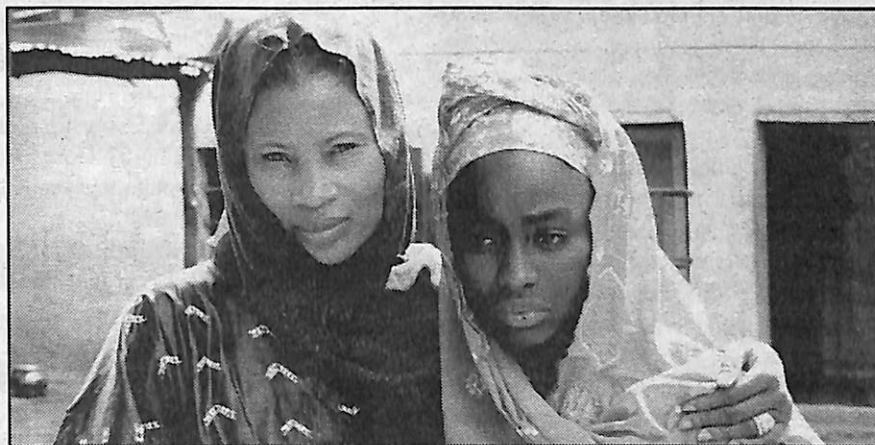
"I'm glad the films are being shown on campus," said Dante Williams, a senior history major from Birmingham, Ala. "It adds culture to the campus. We need events like the film festival here. Students really need to attend."

Though the films featured in the festival all are based in the French language, they also boast the distinction of being African films.

The festival, which began on Mar. 14 with the feature film *Bamako*, is to continue through Apr. 11.

During the festival, five films are to be screened in TSU's Humanities building.

"I was surprised to see the (festival) here," said Dominique Wells, a freshman biology major from Nashville. "I just happened to see a flyer on campus and



TSU's English department is hosting a film festival of French-speaking movies from Africa. Above and right are screenshots of the film, *Bamako*.

COURTESY OF BAMAKO-THEMOVIE.COM

the movie (I saw) was really good."

The Francophone Film Festival comes as a part of the French-sponsored Tournees Festival. The Tournees Festival is the unit that brings new French-language films to college campuses.

The films that are being screened on campus are showing due in large part to TSU French professor and native of the French-speaking African nation Burkina

Faso, Christophe Konkobo.

After finding out the new films could premiere before hitting theaters, Konkobo decided to bring the work of French-speaking filmmakers to TSU.

"I wrote to France about possibly getting films screened (on campus)," Konkobo said. "(The French government) has a funding program and I

See "Films" on page 15

Student radio personality goes beyond campus

By Ashley K. Washington
Staff Reporter

At seven in the morning, most students are still in bed.

Not Sherman Murdock. He is on the airwaves for Sherm Radio, the campus radio station's hit morning show.

Murdock, a junior mass communications major from Chicago, is currently changing the face of campus radio one day at a time, with *The Sherm Radio Morning Show*, which airs Monday through Friday from 7am-10am.

Shortly after his freshman year in high school, his mother informed him of an internship opportunity with Power 92 in Chicago.

After receiving the internship and only working a short time, the program was cancelled. His work was so good, however, that the station allowed him to say.

Murdock then worked closely with the station's Trey the Choklit Jok on his morning show and soon realized that radio was definitely the profession he wanted to pursue.

Before enrolling at TSU, Murdock met up with Faheem Goree, TSU alum and former campus radio personality, to begin working on Goree's show.

After coming to TSU, he branched out on his own and started *Smokehouse Radio*.

Soon after, he decided to try a morning show. He began showing his mettle with the *Back to the Basics Morning Show* with Erk Dogg and Brandi. His was well on his way to developing his on-air personality.

See "Murdock" on page 13

Rap star aims solo while still making the band

By Gregory Brand, Jr.
Arts & Culture Editor

One member of the Memphis-based, chart climbing hip-hop collective known as Kinfolk Thugs reveals solo potential while lamenting dedication to his group as he moves forward toward nabbing a major label deal.

The 19-year-old emcee is called Kristyle and his reputation as a credible artist has been steadily growing since he first burst on the scene while he was still in high school.

He enjoyed regional stardom on several locally produced tracks, but became a major fixture when he dropped a highly acclaimed track on the now-infamous *Gangsta Grillz* mixtape series at the age of sixteen.

"I've been rapping since I was nine," Kristyle said. "I just want to take it to the next level and keep doing my thing."

His stardom was further cemented with the release of his Jodeci-sampled, *Something 4 The Ladies* featuring southern great, Tela.

In high school he met up with the future members of Kinfolk Thugs and began reaching for stardom. Though he joined forces with kindred musical spirits, he continued making tracks for himself.

He has independently promoted himself on various mixtapes. His *Ride it Like a Cowgirl* single made its public debut on DJ Crisis' latest mixtape.

The idea of marketing to college listeners came from a familiar TSU face. Kobie Randolph, former TSU student and prominent promoter, is working with the

artist.

"We want to take a 'from the streets' approach," Randolph said. "By hitting the streets and (college campuses) Kristyle can build a real fan base."

Kristyle's hard work for both himself and his group has created a bidding war for the young artist.

His status as a powerplayer in his hometown Memphis has only extended his potential.

"A lot of labels are (interested) off the first single," Kristyle said. "(I Want Some' is even) hot in the strip clubs."

Counting his influences in hip-hop as T.I., Ludacris, 3-6 Mafia, Yo Gotti and 8-Ball and MJG, the young rapper might be ready for the big leagues.

"I was impressed when he said (he was shopping for a deal) on the show," said Latoya Grimes, a junior psychology major from Harrisburg, Penn. "I hope he gets a good deal."

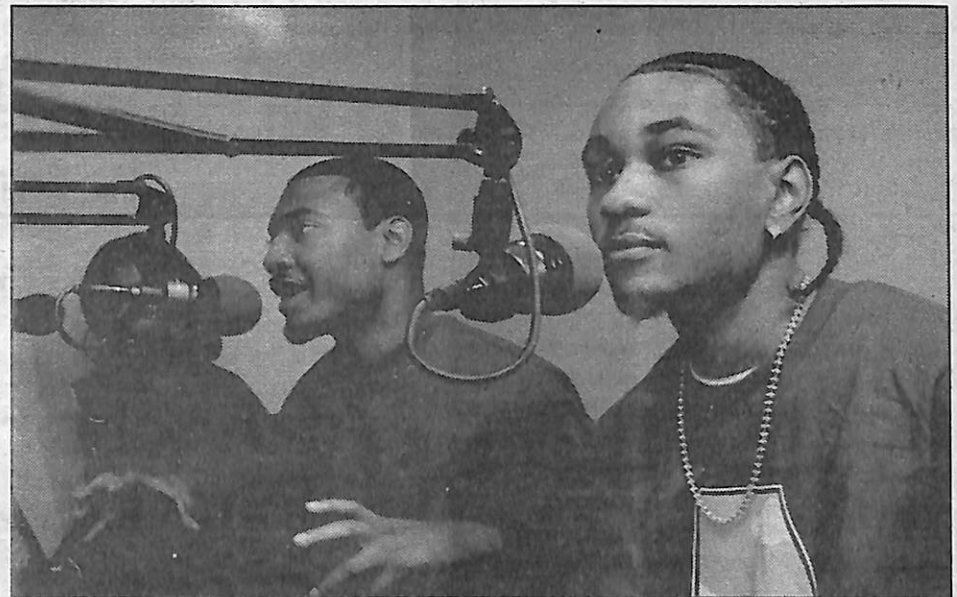
His new upcoming album, *Long Over Due*, is set to hit stores later this year and will feature production from the likes of Rocco, Jazze Pha, and Plies producer Drummer Boy.

The single currently in radio rotation is "I Want Some" and his strong following in the south is currently pushing his name and trademark "swag" into the stratosphere.

As far as the Kinfolk Thugs are concerned; their smash single, "Dump Truck" has pushed them towards success.

With hundreds of spins running throughout the south, they show no sign of falling off.

Kristyle spent time reflecting on his



Above: Tera Whitfield and Kobie Randolph interview with Kristyle at The Blaze, TSU campus radio. Left: Rap group Kinfolk Thugs visit the campus of TSU.

PHOTOS BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

plans for the future. The plans include more music from he and his crew and even expansion into clothing design. The line, Royalty, will feature hip-hop fashion as well as loungewear.

"The motto of the line is 'Loyalty is Royalty,'" Kristyle said. "I'm a prince

and I feel like everyone out there should feel the same."

When asked about how he felt about the state of hip-hop, his answer was simple: "I'm up next; y'all be on the look out. Atlanta had its run, now its time for Memphis to take over."•

Star Trak's Chester French opens for N.E.R.D. in Nashville

By DeShanee Miner
Arts & Culture Writer

The newest addition to Star Trak/Interscope records was a big hit in Nashville. Chester French opened for N.E.R.D. on March 18 at City Hall. The N.E.R.D. tour is promoting the group's newest project, *Seeing Sounds*.

Chester French lead singer D.A. Wallach donned a pair of red jeans and velvet suit jacket and preformed for the crowd.

Chester French is a pop band from Cambridge, Mass. They were signed to Star Trak in the spring of 2007. The duet is made up of Wallach and Maxwell

Drummeay.

Both are Harvard graduates who made music in a dorm basement. The two recently graduated from the Ivy League school with degrees in African American Studies (Wallach) and Social Anthropology (Drummeay).

While obtaining their undergraduate degree's both Wallach and Drummeay found interest in not only writing and performing music, but also producing it.

So while other students left the campus for the summer, the duo recorded their early EP and sold it through out the college town while also learning more about music production at the school's recording studio.

The two learned more about produc-

tion and produced projects for artists all over Boston and surrounding areas.

The catchy tune *Jimmy Choo's* from their tentatively titled album, *Love the Future*, had the audience swaying in front of the stage.

The band combines guitar, key boards, drums and electronic sound effects to give audience futuristic sound that ranges from The Beatle to Panic at the Disco.

Chester French left the stage at about 9:40 p.m. N.E.R.D. didn't hit the stage until about 11 p.m., leaving the audience waiting in City Hall for nearly an hour.

However, even with the late performance and an under-the-weather Pharrell, the audience seemed to enjoy it.



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE.COM

Chester French, the latest addition to the Star Trak imprint, opened for N.E.R.D. in Nashville on March 18.

Lead actress revels chance to play legendary singer

Continued from page 1

actor's dream but it is also a lot of hard work. To portray the life as Miss Lady Day herself is more than a privilege."

James spoke highly of Bishop: "Working with Ashley has been exceptional," James said. "I find Ashley Bishop to be one of the most disciplined, hard working and committed actors I've had the pleasure to work with."

"As a sophomore, she shows the maturity of someone with much experience," he continued. "Her work ethic, commitment and ability to take directions are very noteworthy. With these types of qualities, Ashley has potential for success in whatever her field(s) of endeavor."

Though the show is primarily a one-woman show, it still includes four other characters - one is played by faculty member, Darryl Nettles.

Nettles, a music professor and

director of the University Choir, plays Holiday's accompanist, Jimmie Powers; he also serves as the musical director for the play.

"He is a multitalented vocalist, pianist, teacher and as we can see in the show, actor as well," James said. "Nettles brings a wealth of expertise to the production. We have been extremely fortunate to have him work with us. He has been an integral part of the collaborative and artistic processes."

Even with a talented cast, James explained that there have still been obstacles that production has had to overcome in order to produce a play like this one.

"The major obstacle that has had to be overcome has been with not having adequate support in certain areas of production," James said. "That is, the theatre program continues to be impeded by a lack of essential support by basic theatri-

cal production procedures and accountability to make things happen."

He surmised that directing a theatre production is a challenging, taxing task for faculty.

Nonetheless, James and Bishop both said they expected a good turnout from the student body.

"Whether it be the music, or Billie's story, or even the foul language because Billie most definitely had a potty mouth, the audience should absolutely love it and maybe even come another night or two to see the show," Bishop said.

James said, "Holiday's struggles with career success, drugs, prostitution, rape, racism, broken relationships, family, mother-daughter relationship are not foreign topics, but have to do with what everyone has to do, and that is to live and survive."

Shalisa Council, a sophomore com-

munications major from Nashville, said many positive things about the production, in spite of its seemingly challenging concept.

"I didn't think a one-woman show would be too entertaining," Council said. "However, now that I have seen it I would highly recommend this play to the entire campus. There were phenomenal performances. Ashley did an outstanding job."•

SEE THE METER'S
REVIEW OF 'LADY
DAY' ON APRIL 5.

Murdock traces radio career back to guest hosting at WTST

Continued from page 11

"Sherman is a trailblazing young shock jock changing the game of TSU radio," said Brandon Nix, a senior mass communications major from Memphis.

Back to the Basics gave way to Erk's Doghouse during the spring 2007 semester; the show ran until the middle of the fall of 2007.

After a change in the production team for the show, Sherm Radio was born.

Ideas from the previous shows were carried over to create the show that listeners everywhere are taking heed to.

His current radio show, Sherm Radio, is now breaking into a national realm after being mentioned on Power 92 in Chicago, online at www.mediatakeout.com and on a few other blogs and online columns.

"I think his show is pretty nice," said Matthew Thornton, a senior music education major from Stone Mountain, Ga. "I wish I could catch it more often."

Students on campus are not the only ones that are waking up and tuning into Sherm Radio. Celebrities like Lloyd, Tiffani Evans, Clifton Power and contestants from VH1's *Flavor of Love 3* have either visited or called the station to be a part of the "best campus morning show ever."

"He is getting great exposure because Sherm is really talented," said Kiana Petty, a senior mass communications major from Baltimore and TSU radio personality for *The Seasons* at WTST. "(The

show) is really energetic and helps you wake up in the morning."

Though Murdock said he plans to graduate in May 2009, he is trying to set the right example before leaving TSU.

"It is not about me," Murdock said. "(I)t is about the audience. What you don't do only affects you but what you do affects someone you may not ever see."

Murdock uses his show to highlight university events and achievements. He has everyone from organizations to random faculty members on the show to "showcase TSU's talent to the masses."

He said he believes the faculty and the students have a major disconnect and he intends to bridge the gap.

Sherm Radio not only includes Murdock but also a producer, two production assistants, a sportscaster, a traffic reporter, newscaster, entertainment coordinator and comedians to lighten the shows mood.

Murdock believes he shares a connection with urban and the hip hop culture and wants to use that to tie it to the show.

Sherm Radio includes not only the staff but a little bit of himself as well.

"The show has my name so I have to include me into it," Murdock said. "(T)hat is why I try to include as much of my personal life as possible, excluding nothing."

He said he credits TSU with helping to make him the radio personality and businessman that he is today. He

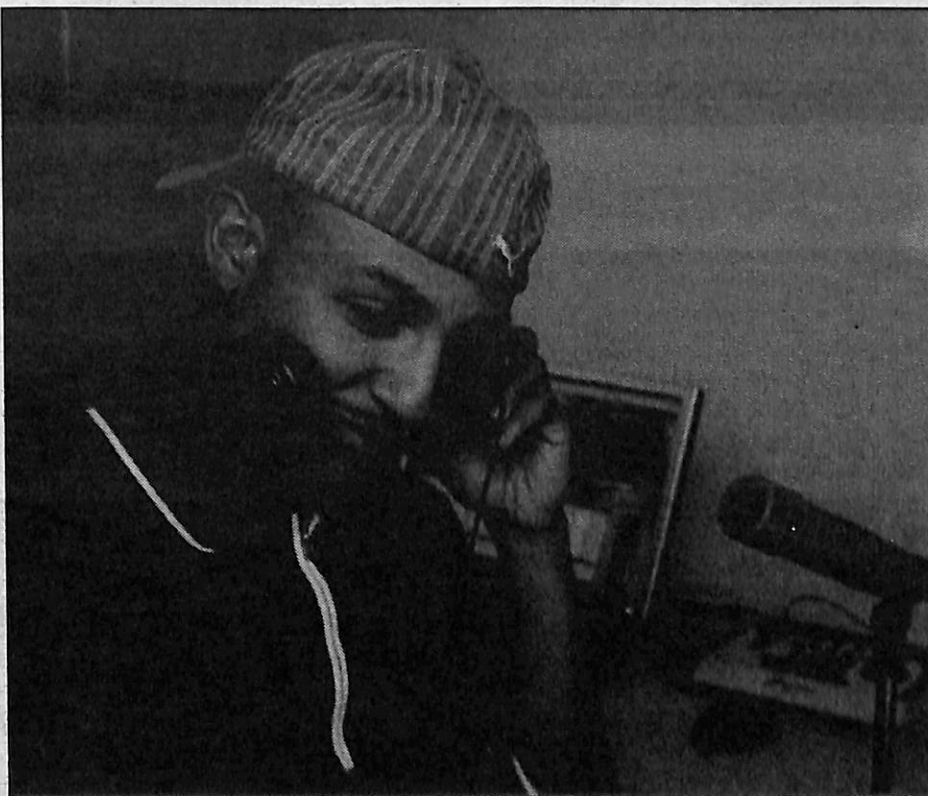


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

WTST radio jock Sherman Murdock has garnered a reputation for his acumen and dedication to his craft.

also made it known that all of the ideas that made previous and the current radio shows all came from TSU students and other faculty members.

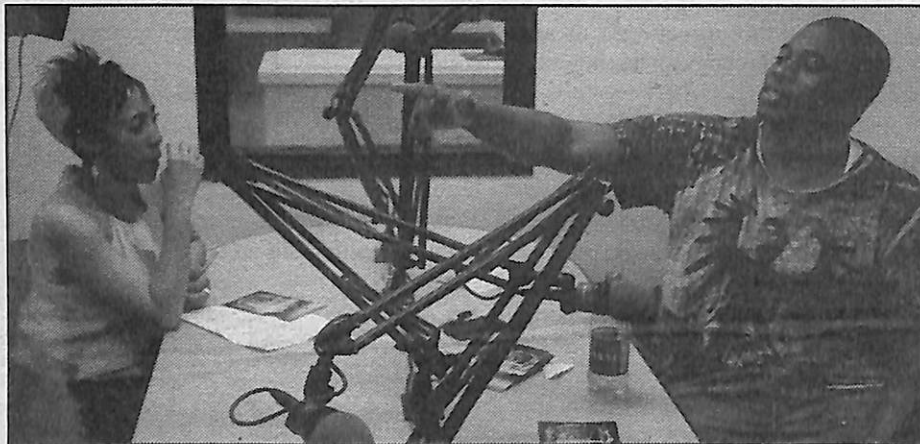
Murdock also credits the success of the show to nonbelievers and those that dislike the morning show and those that

give him praise.

"If I got ten haters today then I have to have twenty tomorrow, that means I am doing something right," Murdock said. "And when they praise me it is the best feeling in the world."•

BANNER'S BACK

Hip-hop star makes campus stop



PHOTOS BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Above: Candice Reddick interviews David Banner at The Blaze, TSU campus radio. Right: David Banner imitates Laurence Fishburn in the Spike Lee movie "Skool Daze."

By Gregory Brand, Jr.
Arts & Culture Editor

Amid the hustle of TSU's campus, he arrived just as mid-day classes ended and the courtyard began to fill.

To promote his yet-to-be released album, *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, hip-hop superstar David Banner arrived to share a piece of himself and the message of his music.

After a quick round in the student center, he and an interestingly small entourage made their way into WTST The Blaze's control room for a round of interviewing that gave listeners and WTST staff a rare glimpse into the inner workings of a person that just happens to be an artist.

Student cameras swarmed about him as he lowered himself into a chair in the radio station control room, surrounded by half painted walls, a row of microphones and a wall of soundboards.

Where most celebrities would be moderately uncomfortable, he seemed right at home, eager to answer questions. He mentioned that he is honored by the support and attention that has been given to him on campus. He is, after all, an HBCU alum himself.

"We're just out here to show love," Banner said. "I made a pledge to do better than the artists that used to not show any love when I was in school."

As the cameras continued to flash, capturing several photos of the man during his interview, he smiled graciously and continued sliding full-hearted jokes in between his earnest and revealing commentary.

In person, he is a lot smaller and slighter than his over-the-top album covers suggest. He is also nowhere as menacing either. The aforementioned fact is credited to the more than 50-pound weight loss he admits to.

"When life throws you a mountain, you have no choice but to climb it," Banner said. "So, why not climb one on your own? It will only make you stronger."

Though he says that he began trimming his body because of concern for his health, he also jokingly added that, "It has also given a boost to his connection with the ladies."

The mood is all at once conversational and loose despite the message he manages to slide in between quick phone calls, flirting with the ladies and directed questions.

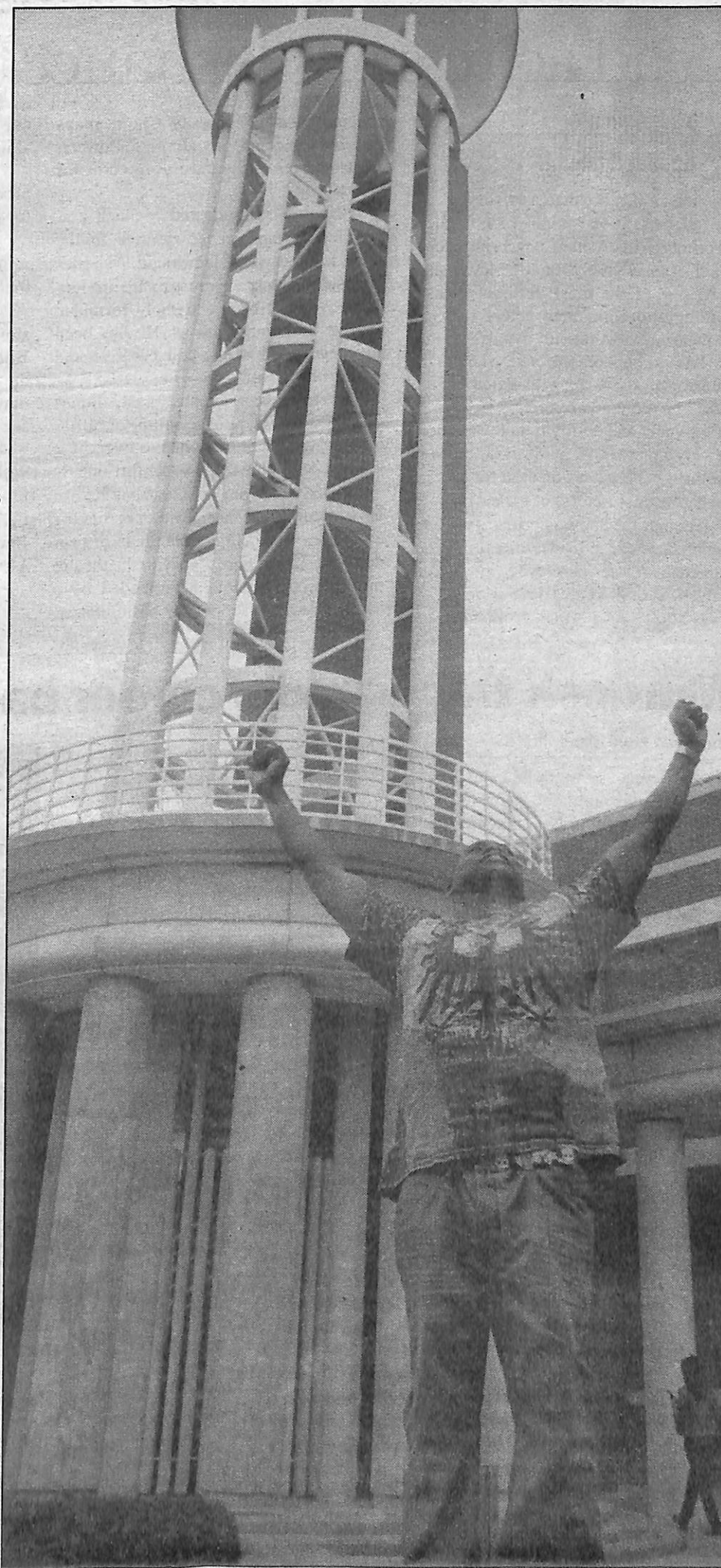
It's apparent that he's a grown man who has experienced life's positives and negatives, but there was a certain down-home approachability about him that put everyone else at ease too.

The interview held at the radio station is helmed by popular TSU morning show host Sherman 'Sherm Murda' Murdock, Alona Stafford, and myself.

Between the team's questions and his comments, he began to help both the interviewers and listeners understand the concept behind his music and the way he chooses to live his life.

He used the opportunity to talk about his life following his graduation from college, and how he was homeless before finding his calling in music. He even went on to say he spent some time depressed as well.

From that string of impromptu con-





David Banner entertains students at TSU in the sub just before going to the radio station for interviews.

PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Banner cleans house to clean up life

Continued from page 14

fessions he offered a little wisdom to all who were listening.

"You can't be a soldier for God until you go through boot camp."

He takes both his current blessings and past struggles as a part of his development as a complete person. Shifting from almost preaching to the listeners and staff, he talked about how his conscious decisions help to improve his life.

"I had to get new management, and even a new crew," Banner said. "If you weren't trying to do right I had to cut you loose."

In what would become a typical subject change, he moved to the present state of hip-hop and black people in general.

"Our generation is a generation of cowards. We only want to fight our-

selves. We'll confront rappers and rap music but no real issues."

He also went on to say that we are the first generation that wants to be known as niggers. His insight is interesting and only adds to the charm to the room. He could be considered closer to educated homeboy than club rocker; his capacity toward the future further fortified this concept.

Appealing to homeboy fans, Banner revealed a T-Pain featured episode of his up-and-coming Cartoon Network's Adult Swim show, *Crooked Sipp*.

As the interview began to wind down, he decided that hip-hop would close the moment he shared with us. He quickly said that hip-hop was fine, but he blamed the industry itself for most of the mediocrity in the music.

"The music industry isn't conducive to building lasting artists," Banner

said. "Old-head (artists) had fans before they had deals; the new cats don't have that."

As far as the new album is concerned, Banner promises to deliver an album that has hot beats but also delivers a fresher message. If the radio spins his new single featuring Chris Brown are any indication, Banner may just be ready for more.

As Banner stood and began taking pictures with the radio staff, everyone felt a little closer to the star standing among them. Pose after pose he smiled, taking quick snapshots with the young journalists in the studio.

When the Greeks in the room started to pose for their pictures, flashing their hand signs, Banner sat completely unfazed. He doesn't even flash a hand sign. Amid the shocked faces, he smiles and says, "I did not pledge!"

New Perry film fails to captivate audiences

Meet the Browns

Grade: C-

Tyler Perry presented the nationwide premiere of *Meet the Browns* on Friday, Mar. 21. The movie is his fifth film adaptation of one of his plays.

Ultimately, *Meet the Browns* sinks as a lackluster follow-up to Perry's most previous films, *Daddy's Little Girls* and *Why Did I Get Married*. The film features an all-star cast that includes, Angela Bassett, Rick Fox, and Tamela J. Mann (*Madea's Class Reunion*).

The newest addition fails to captivate on the silver screen. From the time Henry (Fox) lays eyes on Brenda (Bassett), it brings back memories from past movies, such as the storylines in *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* when Shamar Moore and Kimberly Elise fall madly in love with each other, and

in *Daddy's Little Girls* when Gabrielle Union and Idris Elba fall in love during a custody battle.

The sad part is, there is no excitement or anything deeply interesting happening outside of this almost-instant attraction.

The ingredients for Perry's films are becoming redundant. It's almost as if you can guess what will happen before the film reaches its 20-minute mark.

Despite the lack of an intriguing script, a few good jokes are filtered in every once in awhile.

The Film begins with, Brenda (Bassett), a mother of two children struggling to raise her family in the inner-city Chicago projects. Amid her chaotic and depressing situation, her oldest son catches the eye of a former NBA player named Harry (Fox).

Harry sees real potential in Brenda's

son and begins working with him. His desire to teach Brenda's son the skills to become a potential NBA star leads him to Brenda, and in typical movie fashion, their relationship begins to blossom.

Brenda then receives a letter from Georgia in regards to her absent father's death. After arriving in Georgia, Brenda is welcomed by her extended family.

Despite receiving what should have been a warm welcome, her arrival stirs up a plethora of erratic behavior in the family she has just met.

Including jokes about LeBron James and Clowns costumes, the film barely stays afloat.

Perry's movies always have a family appeal. However, the lack of true comedy, family-orientation, and casting definitely affected the Browns' ability to be a black comedy classic.

Tiffani McDaniel

Black women beware of downlow brothers

Continued from page 11

tion with their partners. Some women may not be informed of their partner's behaviors and HIV status, which is especially dangerous when dealing with men who have sex with men and women.

According to the Centers for Disease Control's study on HIV infected people, 34% of black men who had sex with men also reported having sex with women. Only 6% of African American women reported knowing their partner's orientation. Most women infected with HIV contracted the disease through high-risk heterosexual contact.

Getting tested is important and should be done frequently. There are several tests--blood, urine, and oral--that detect whether or not you have been exposed to the HIV virus.

HIV test results can take anywhere from 20 minutes to two weeks for results, depending on the specific test. Results are always confidential. All TSU students can go to Queen Washington Health Center for the STD Free! testing program on campus with a student ID.

The Lentz Department, located on 23rd Ave N. right off Charlotte Ave., also has a STD clinic with a \$10 testing fee. To find other sites, visit www.hivtest.org. The only risk is in not knowing. Get tested!



COURTESY OF BAMAKO-THEMOVIE.COM

Films screen on Fridays

Continued from page 11

requested the funding."

With \$1800 provided for the new films used in the festival's screenings, the TSU Francophone Film Festival was born, Konkobo explained. On Friday afternoons during the festival students can see the films.

"Francophone designates French-speaking countries," Konkobo said. "I also wanted the films narrowed to Africa."

For students interested in the stories the films are delivering, screenings are showed twice on the screening days in the Poag Auditorium of the Humanities building.

"We've had fairly good turnouts to the screenings," Konkobo said. "There have even been students from other campuses at the screening (here). I am actually hoping to it again, next time with more people involved."

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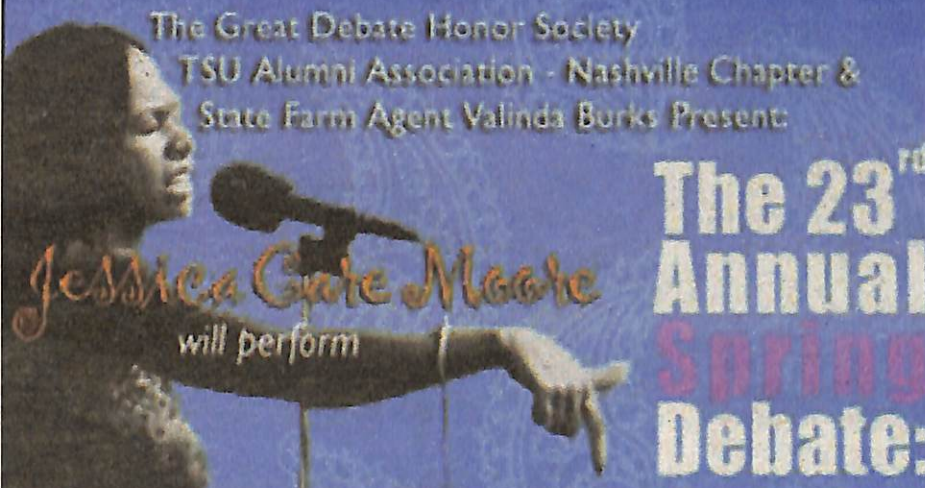
- Solicit and accept ads for both publications: The Meter and Tennessean
- Set and meet advertising revenue goals for both publications
- Keep accurate account of advertising sales and produce regular reports for both The Meter, student newspaper and The Tennessean, student year-book.

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or

E-mail all materials to gjohnson@tstate.edu or
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