



Shortage at the pumps

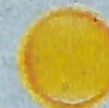
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inside

THE METER

Serving the Tennessee State University community since 1950

MONDAY
September 22, 2008



HI: 85°F
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NASHVILLE, TENN.

WWW.TSUMETER.COM

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 5

RIGHTING FREEDOM'S WRONGS

TSU Freedom Riders 14 awarded honorary degrees to standing ovation

By Marshall A. Latimore
Online Editor



Catherine Burks-Brooks ascended the stage, crossed the threshold and held her new degree to her chest as tears formed in the corners of her eyes. Hers was the first of 14 dreams that were fulfilled after 47 years.

Starting a special weekend dedicated to honoring a TSU legacy, this year's fall Convocation awarded honorary doctorates of humane letters to the Freedom Riders 14, former students who had been expelled from the university during the 1961 Freedom Rides.

"These students demonstrated extraordinary achievement, setting standards that merit distinction," said TSU President Melvin N. Johnson, sharing remarks with the more than 1,000 people in attendance at the Convocation. "They have inspired students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni and members of the local, national and world communities with their courage, grace in the presence of tremendous odds, integrity and commitment to equality and the public good."

Provost Robert Hampton, chair of the Honor Freedom Riders committee, said planning for the event-filled weekend was a team effort brought to attention why the weekend was so prime for everything to take place.

The events included the Convocation, an invitation-only reception, breakfast, campus tour, symposium, meet and greet with students, private luncheon, half-time tribute at Saturday's game against Eastern Kentucky University and the annual African Street Festival.

In the meet and greet on Friday, students and the

See "Weekend" on page 9

THE FREEDOM RIDERS 14 STAMP SYMBOLIZES ARTICLES THAT ARE RELATED TO FREEDOM RIDERS COVERAGE.

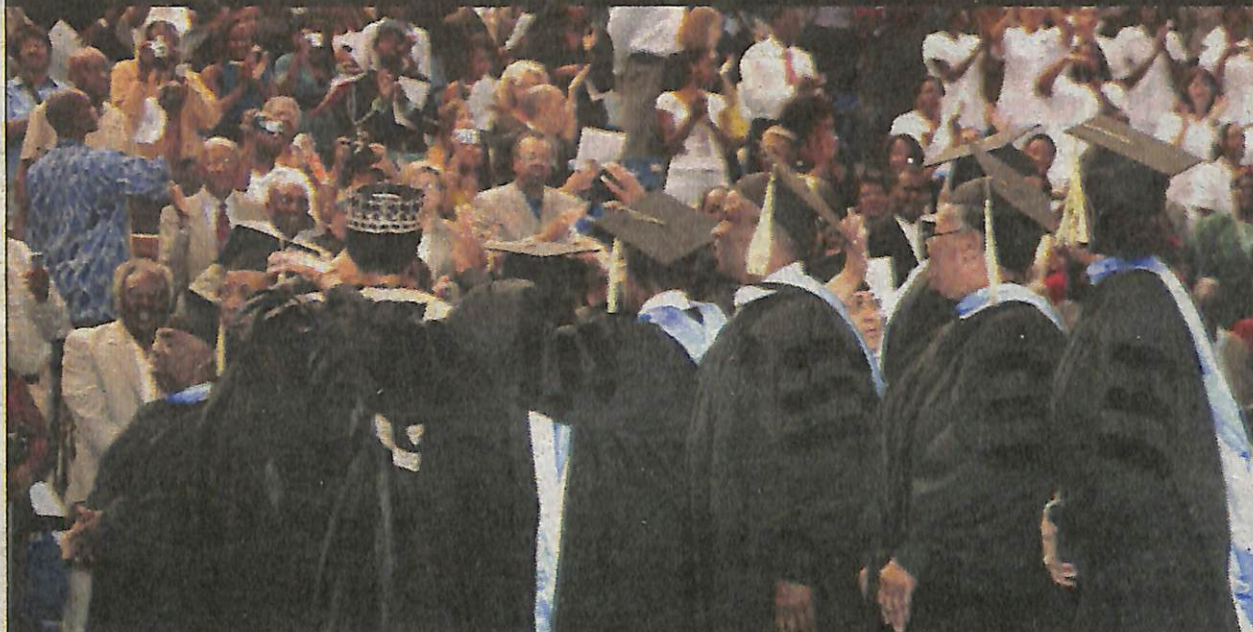


PHOTO BY MARIO STUART

The TSU Freedom Riders 14 wave to an applauding crowd at the annual fall Convocation, where they were awarded honorary degrees on Thursday, Sept. 18.

By **Rechelle Jackson**
Asst. Copy Desk Chief



Tears and thunderous applause filled the Gentry Center as 14 historical strongholds received doctor of humane letters degrees 47 years in the making.

This year's opening Convocation, held on Thursday, Sept. 18, proved to be monumental as the Freedom Riders 14 were awarded honorary degrees.

The Freedom Riders 14 are for-

mer students of the then Tennessee A&I College who joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council, a group that focused on equal rights for all students.

The 14 students entered the university at different times with different agendas, but their paths crossed and the force they created paved the way for students today.

In 1960, segregating buses was outlawed. However, many did not listen

and segregation continued. The 14, along with countless others, participated in a series of bus rides traveling to the south, in hopes of creating a change.

Many were arrested and attacked, including TSU's 14. They were held in bondage in Jackson, Miss., and informed that they had been expelled from school.

According to the university's police, any student arrested had to be dismissed

See "TBR" on page 12

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34-20 Tigers remain undefeated.
TIGERS COLONELS
See "Tigers" on page 19

Annual festival returns to campus.

See "Street" on page 15



Campus career, professional fairs this week

The Career Development Center will be hosting its annual Career Awareness Exposition this week.

The Graduate and Professional School Fair is Sept. 23; the Technical Career Fair is Sept. 24; the University-wide Career Fair is Sept. 25; and the Career Employment and Cooperative Education Interview Day is Sept. 26.

Students are encouraged to attend, and business professional attire is required. Students are asked to bring copies of their resume. The fair will run from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on each of these days.

Student Activities to host orgs fair on Thursday

The Organizational Fair will be held Sept. 25 and is open to all students. It will take place from 6-9 p.m. in Kean Hall.

All registered student organizations will be in attendance. So, freshmen as well as all students are encouraged to be there in order to receive more information about the many campus-wide organizations offered.

Homecoming headliners confirmed

The Homecoming Concert contract has finally been signed, and T-Pain and

Rick Ross will grace the stage.

The concert is scheduled for Gentry Center on Oct. 31. Student tickets will be on sale within the next week. All student tickets need to be purchased on campus.

Student tickets cost \$10 and must be purchased before Oct. 24 or students will have to pay general admission prices.

Compiled by
Ashley K. Washington

Fraternity adopts school

In a Sept. 19 ceremony, members of the Delta Beta chapter of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc. adopted the Sylvan Park Elementary Paideia Design Center.

"This is a momentous occasion," said Stan Moore, graduate advisor of the chapter.

Moore said the purpose of the adoption is to start a mentoring program. Moore introduced the idea for the partnership to Sylvan Park Principal Evalina Cheadle.

Cheadle said she believed that the personal attention will inspire the students to do more. The ceremony was held in the school's auditorium with a small reception afterward.

"They will set a great example for the young men," said Chanda Wilson, director of the Project for Neighborhood

Aftercare. "There is a need to see older gentlemen present themselves in a mature manner."

DeShanee Miner

Center to host introduction

The TSU pilot center for academic excellence in intelligence studies is inviting all students to attend the PCAEIS reception and intelligence community introduction, IC and YOU, Thursday, Sept. 25.

The reception will be from 4:30-5 p.m. with the introduction from 5-7 p.m. in the James E. Ferrell and Fred E. Westbrook Agricultural complex, room 118.

Student will have the opportunity to meet representatives from the CIA, FBI, and Homeland Security. For more info, contact ext. 5764.

Tea and talk for women

The TSU women's center, in collaboration with reign supreme, will host TSU Women's Tea and Talk tomorrow, Sept. 30 in the Ford Residential Complex at 6 p.m. The event, titled *Unapologetically Me*, will include conversations on identity and self-esteem for women around campus.

For more information, contact Stephanie Bundle, the coordinator for the women's center, at ext. 4923, ext. 4881.

Compiled by

Tiffany Williams

Campus Briefs

FORMER TIGER LAID TO REST

By Faith Foxx
Contributing Reporter

Ernestine Gordon passed on Sept. 9 at Vanderbilt Medical Center. She taught freshman English part-time at TSU - her Alma Mater, and at many high schools.

She taught so many and was able to leave an imprint on all of her students. A Springfield, Tenn., native, Gordon resided in what is now known as Wilson Hall as a freshman and also ranked No. 2 in her class when she graduated in 1950.

Gordon later graduated with her master's degree in English from TSU, then Tennessee A&I College, as well.

She was one of the first to attend the first graduate classes offered at TSU in 1958.

She was a strong believer in education and the students whom she taught. Students recall her being a great asset to TSU and an amazing educator. She will be truly missed.

She preceded her husband Robert L. Gordon in death and is survived by four children, two siblings and numerous relatives and friends.

Services celebrating her life were held on Friday, Sept. 12 at 1 p.m., at the Spruce Street Baptist Church in Nashville.

Memorials may be made to the TSU Foundation.

Got an idea for a story? Visit us online at tsumeter.com or give us a call at 963-5555.

weather

M HI: 85°F
LO: 60°F

T HI: 86°F
LO: 61°F

W HI: 83°F
LO: 59°F

T HI: 81°F
LO: 55°F

F HI: 81°F
LO: 56°F

Source: Weather.com

events calendar

tuesday

Graduate and Professional School Fair
Kean Hall 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

SGA House of Delegates Meeting
FPCC 319 8 p.m.

wednesday

Technical Career Fair
Kean Hall 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Bible Studies
Holland 124 & LRC Auditorium 6:30 p.m.

thursday

University-wide Career Fair
Kean Hall 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

friday

Career Employment & Cooperative Education Interview Day
Kean Hall 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

saturday

Atlanta Football Classic
Football vs. FAMU
Georgia Dome 2 p.m.

STAFF

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:

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.

EDITOR IN CHIEF:

Cara Anthony

MANAGING EDITOR:

M. Antonio Silas

COPY DESK CHIEF:

Tiffany Williams

COPY STAFF:

Rechelle Jackson

Kimberly Chester

ONLINE EDITOR:

Marshall A. Latimore

OPINIONS EDITOR:

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Ashleigh Taylor

Ashley Eaton

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

MARIO STUART

CIRCULATION: 2,000

Students feel the pinch of gas shortages

By Jennifer E. Butler
News Editor

Students looking to refuel gas tanks ran into a bit of a surprise on Friday, Sept. 19. As many as 85 percent of gas stations run out of fuel because of shipping difficulties related to Hurricane Ike.

Many students reported waiting in lines for up to an hour and a half on Friday at local gas stations, and being forced to fill their tanks with premium gasoline when regular and super ran out.

"It was ridiculous," said Crystal Witt, a junior health care administration major from Nashville. "I was in line for an hour and a half. When I got (to the pump) it took 15 minutes to pump and cost \$48."

AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report states that on Thursday, Sept. 18, the average cost of a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline in Nashville was \$4.08. On Friday, when most stations were closed due to the shortage, the prices remained stable.

Price, however, was not the issue for most students. Instead, many made city-wide trips in an attempt to find any gas at all.

"I drove around and spent one-quarter of a tank of gas looking for more gas," said Marquita Adams, a sophomore psycholo-

gy and criminal justice double-major from Covington, Tenn. "I started out with three-quarters and ended up with half a tank. I finally got some gas at Kroger."

According to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, the gas shortage in Nashville began about two weeks ago, when the oil refineries in Texas were closed and evacuated in preparation for Hurricane Ike.

Though many of the refineries were unscathed, the storm blew out their power supplies. Because the Gulf Coast supplies Nashville with most of its gas, shortages of gas ensued in the area.

"A number of independent retail distributors of gasoline are reportedly having limited access to their normal supplies of fuel," TEMA stated in a Sept. 12 press release. Shortages (are) not expected to last past (Sept. 15)."

However, problems arose when drivers pumped twice as much gasoline as normal last week, according to Nashville's *Tennessean*.

"AAA estimates 50 to 60 percent of stations still without gas," the article stated.

This increase in demand, most likely because residents were worried about gasoline supplies, coupled with the drop in fuel deliveries to the state, led to a massive decline in the city's supply.

"This has been a tough time as the gasoline shortage has put a strain on all of us for the past several days," said Governor Phil Bredesen in the article. "For the next few days we will continue to see supply shortages."

Much of Nashville's gas is supplied along the Colonial Pipeline, traveling at an average speed of three to five miles per hour.

During peak operational periods, the pipeline can carry up to 100 million gallons of gasoline a day.

Although the refineries have reopened and tankers have been carrying gasoline to various stations, the shortage is expected to last at least through the end of the week, when the pipeline can get refilled.

"I was in line for an hour and a half. When I got [to the pump] it took 15 minutes to pump and cost \$48."
-Crystal Witt

Students expressed concern about the rising costs of gasoline, especially because of limited budgets.

"It's sad that your life has to revolve around your gas needs," said Quinton Hamilton, a junior biology and health sciences double-major from Memphis. "Personally, I'm going to fill up regardless. I realized that the prices are going to rise whether I liked it or not, so I do what I need to do, like put money to the side only for gas."

While the price of oil has been decreasing since it hit a record \$147.27 a barrel in July, gas prices across the country are steadily rising.

Many students, looking at the big picture, see what many analysts are hesitant to call a recession.

"It's horrible," said Camille Brunson, a sophomore biology major from Pine Bluff, Ark. "Rising gas prices, inflation of food products, stock brokerages failing—it's truly sad."

With the economy in unstable territory, students are far more skeptical and critical of the American government and big business in general.

"It just shows how greedy of a country we are," Hamilton said. "It is crazy we have to budget like this for gas, it's ridiculous."

2008-09 Student Health Insurance Plans Developed for the Tennessee State University Students

Approved by The Tennessee Board of Regents
Student Insurance Committee

Features Include:

- ✓ Covered charges at the Student Health Center paid at 100% with no deductible
- ✓ Coverage for inpatient and outpatient hospital expense such as: surgery, physician's visits, diagnostic testing, prescriptions and other services
- ✓ Coverage: 80% in PPO & 60% Non-PPO; \$100,000 maximum benefit
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- www.hbcstudent.com or calling 1-800-463-2317
- on-line enrollment at www.gmsouthwest.com

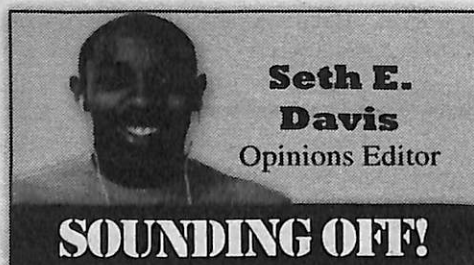
This insurance plan does have certain limitations and exclusions. For complete detail see policy on file at the Tennessee Board of Regents.

What We Think The Freedom Riders 14...

IT'S ABOUT TIME.



For history's sake, let's do better



This entire issue has been dedicated to the Freedom Riders 14 and their historic contributions to our institution as well as the world.

I feel that we can all learn from the courage and tenacity it took for the Freedom 14 to protest, get imprisoned and even be thrown out of school.

Their degrees were definitely due and I still do not feel that the Tennessee Board of Regents has done everything they could do to remedy their past transgressions.

Our "illustrious" institution did not do everything they could do in order to honor these heroic Tigers either. For one, slip-shot decorations were put up less than 48 hours

before Convocation.

The decorations were done the standard of a 6th grade science project, with glue clumps and crooked signage.

I have been in several classes at TSU that would have given me a failing grade if I would have presented a project that looked half as terrible as those decorations, which were obviously prepared at the last minute. So why was that acceptable?

Administration, when you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail. TSU, if you believe that the Freedom 14 are so important, which I believe they are, then you should treat them as such and prepare accordingly.

I decided to go to the Convocation at the last minute. I think I finally realized that going to this historic event was more important than getting a couple hours of sleep.

I did not want to look back on that day and say I missed a once-in-a-lifetime event because I was having one of my ignorant stubborn teenage moments.

However, I wish more of my classmates would have seen it that way.

I arrived at the Convocation somewhat

early, so I would have somewhere to sit; but, to my surprise, that was not the issue.

When I took my seat, I noticed that the majority of the audience was adults and media, who had the common sense to know this was important but not nearly as many students as I would expect, especially since classes were cancelled.

I do give kudos to organizations such as NAACP, SGA, nursing program and University Honors Program, that saw the importance of Convocation.

I am not sure why other organizations with principles and mission statements that include phrases such as, "unifying and uplifting," "nurturing and enhancing," "service and love for all mankind" and "preserving heritage" did not support this event.

In my opinion, lack of attendance was not even the biggest issue. It was the whole TSU philosophy of "I will come late and leave early."

There were too many students coming in the middle of the ceremony, and if you go to TSU, you know they could not have been quiet while doing so.

Once they got there, many of them spent the ceremony texting or gossiping and laughing with their friends.

Then to top it off many students got up and left before the Freedom 14 could even get the degrees that they waited 47 years to receive.

I recognize many students had classes to go to but if there was any other reason to be late to class, I would think this would be one.

However, one organization that knew how to treat the Freedom 14 was the band. If you were not at the game, you missed it.

During the halftime show, they had the Freedom 14 on the field while the band played and sung, *We Shall Overcome*. It gave me the chills and another of my "I'm so glad I go to TSU" moments.

I am glad that TSU and its students had the privilege to participate in history 47 years ago, and last week. In the future, I hope we can handle history makers with more care.



Please visit tsumeter.com

Graciousness is a rare, refreshing trait



Cara Anthony
Editor in chief

FROM WHERE I SIT

Last week, we witnessed history as the Freedom Riders 14 finally gained their honorary degrees after 47 long years.

Back during the segregation era, the cost of protesting for what they thought to be right could have cost them their lives.

As a result for their selfless efforts, the 14 TSU Freedom Riders did not receive degrees and haven't been able to recover them for almost five decades.

Now, 10 of the 14 Freedom Riders finally earned their degrees last week on Sept. 18. The other four Freedom Riders earned their degrees posthumously.

It is not everyday that you bump into a living legend in the campus student center.

During this memorable week, Dora Frasier and I had a casual conversation while she was on the way to the bookstore.

Although I had the opportunity to formally interview Frasier, and nearly 10 Freedom Riders, chatting with her one-on-one was of the most valuable experiences of my life.

Frasier is the sister of Freedom Rider Charles Butler.

Butler died Dec. 20, 2000 and was honored posthumously for his efforts, along with Frances Wilson, William B. Mitchell Jr. and Clarence Melvin Wright.

During our short walk, we did not talk about how her brother was arrested with Martin Luther King Jr., and we did not discuss how she felt when her brother decided to go on a historic Freedom Ride.

Instead, she approached me as a down to earth woman and we laughed like we were long time friends.

Before we walked into the bookstore to buy her a folder, Frasier stopped pushing her walker and pulled a sheet a paper out of

her purse.

With a smile, she showed me a copy of the *Tennessean's* front page. Her picture was on the front page.

The photograph showed her proudly gripping her brother's honorary doctorate degree.

I wonder if she would frame and carry that picture for the remainder of her days.

Frasier also felt elated on the outpouring of friendliness toward the Freedom Riders during this momentous occasion.

At that moment, I wanted every student to personally meet a Freedom Rider, as if they were members of their own immediate family.

Although Frasier was not a Freedom Rider herself, any time I basked in her presence, it was a humbling experience.

I was distraught when I learned that some students didn't attempt to make the Convocation where the Freedom Riders received the honorary degrees or their greet-and-meet session.

Many students even walked by Frasier

and other Freedom Riders, unaware of who they were and what they accomplished.

However, as soon as I met all of them, their faces burned into my mind. Having the Freedom Riders on campus was a priceless opportunity, and I am glad that they were honored for their sacrifices.

Having that conversation with Frasier made me wonder if Civil Rights activists like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. would have been just as warm and friendly in person.

Were they still alive, I believe that they would have been just as gracious.

For more Freedom Riders' coverage, including an audio slideshow and student reflections, visit tsumeter.com.



THE METER

WE'RE PAPER ON PURPOSE



Working hard for you

SGA CORNER

Greetings, fellow Tigers!

I am Justin Crawford, your 2008-2009 Representative at Large (Day) for the House of Delegates. I hope all of you have every problem and concern answered by now.

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." –Albert Einstein

I understand that students are very angry at TSU because of their financial aid or housing problems. We, as students, have to remember that TSU is going through a transitional period and that the people who sit behind those desks there are human beings.

Just as the above quote eloquently states, we all must change our level of thought before we can truly begin to prosper from our current situation.

Currently, your elected officials are working hard with various departments to make this year as efficient as possible.

We have been meeting regularly with

all departments on campus; including Residence Life, Financial Aid, Bursar's and Academic Affairs to name a few.

Residence Life wants ALL students to report loitering in front of Wilson Hall. There have been several complaints of locals and some upperclassmen harassing the women of Wilson Hall.

Efforts are already being made to combat this problem thanks to the TSU Police Department.

Athletics wants all students to know that all home games are free. Tickets can be picked up Monday-Thursday of the game week.

Lastly, we are still working with food service to try and get the café hours extended from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. This dialogue came as a result of many students complaining about the hours. We, as your elected officials, cannot effectively serve you if you don't voice our opinion.

Regardless of what our school is going through, remember we still exist as a school for greater service, one in which I WILL ALWAYS ADORE!

Justin JaVar Crawford
Representative At-Large (Day)

Tigre`

By David Houston



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GRADUATE SCHOOL



U.S. AIR FORCE
R·O·T·C

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ATTENTION:

The BLAZE is having its OFFICIAL intrest meeting...

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

@ 7PM IN LRC

Auditorium

**This meeting is for students of all majors,
what ever it is you are intrested in doing THE
BLAZE can show you how to make it HOT!**

For more information call

615-963-1582

FREEDOM RIDERS AT-A-GLANCE

Catherine Burks Brooks

Catherine Burks Brooks, one of six children, was born in Birmingham, Ala. As a student at TSU, she joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities.

Her participation in the Freedom Ride resulted in her arrest and imprisonment for over 30 days. Upon her return to Nashville, she had been expelled from then Tennessee A&I College.

She continued her civil rights work in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina and Mississippi. After the Tennessee court ruled in favor of the expelled students, she returned and completed her degree.

She has taught school, owned her own business and worked for Avon Products. Brooks is presently a substitute elementary school teacher and proud grandmother.

Charles Butler

Charles Butler, one of six children, was born in Charleston, S.C. He entered TSU in 1960 to major in psychology. Charles was very active in the NAACP, and marched with Martin Luther King Jr.

He worked demonstrating in various cities, and fought in Vietnam. After discharge, he worked at the Navy Yard until his retirement. Butler died in leaving a legacy of service to his country.

Allen Cason Jr.

Allen Cason Jr., one of three children, was born in Orlando, Fla. At TSU he joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities.

His participation in the Freedom Ride resulted in his arrest. Upon his return to Nashville, he discovered he had been expelled from the university.

He worked as a technician in hospitals, child psychology technician and custodial supervisor. He is currently semi-retired and owns his own landscaping business.

William E. Harbour

William E. Harbour, one of eight children, was born in Piedmont, Ala. He entered TSU in 1960 and joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council.

He participated in sit-ins, stand-ins, picketing and marching activities as a function of the Civil Rights Movement. His



participation in the Freedom Ride resulted in his arrest and imprisonment for over 30 days.

When Harbour returned from his civil rights activities, he found he had been expelled from school. He continued working in the Civil Rights Movement and was reinstated at TSU in 1961. Harbour taught school and worked for the federal government.

He is an active alumnus of the university and has a scholarship sponsored by the Atlanta Alumni Association named The William E. Harbour Academic Scholarship.

Larry F. Hunter

Larry F. Hunter was born in 1942. He began at TSU in 1960 where he joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities.

His participation in the Freedom Ride resulted in arrest and imprisonment for over 30 days. Upon his return to Nashville, he had been expelled from TSU.

He applied for conscientious objector status during the Vietnam Conflict, but was denied.

Hunter made the excruciating decision to exit the U.S. and lived and worked in Canada for 10 years. After review of his case, all charges were dropped.

Hunter worked with street gangs in a social worker capacity with Jobs Now. Presently he works for the DeKalb County school system in driver education is a range instructor.

Frederick Leonard

Frederick Leonard, one of three children, was born in Chattanooga. He entered TSU and joined the Nashville Civil Rights Movement.

He demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities. His participation in the Freedom Ride resulted in arrest and imprisonment for over 30 days.

Upon return to Nashville, he discovered he had been expelled from the university. He continued to work in the movement in Illinois, North Carolina, South Carolina and Mississippi.

He moved to Detroit and worked for the Chrysler Corporation and owned his own business.

Leonard is presently retired, but has been involved in civil rights work throughout his life and is a member of the Nashville Civil Rights Legacy Foundation.

William B. Mitchell

William B. Mitchell was born in Oklahoma City, Okla. He attended TSU and the University of Central Oklahoma. He served in the U. S. Army and received an Honorable Discharge.

After his service in civil rights he was determined to finish his education. He returned to school at Langston University. Mitchell worked as an educator and was devoted to his family and church.

Pauline Knight-Ofosu

Pauline Knight Ofosu, one of nine children, was born in Nashville. In 1960, she joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities.

Her participation in the Freedom Ride resulted in her arrest and imprisonment. Upon her return to Nashville, she had been expelled from school. She was reinstated and graduated in 1962.

She worked as a medical technologist from 1962-1967. Beginning in 1967, she started work at the Environmental Protection Agency. She retired in 1994 and spends time with her daughter.

Ernest Patton

Ernest Patton was born in Nashville. He entered TSU in 1958 as a music major. He joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities.

His participation in the Freedom Ride resulted in arrest and imprisonment for over 60 days. Upon his return to Nashville, he had been expelled from the university.

He returned in 1962, but continued to play music with various groups. As professional long haul driver, he has been employed in this arena for over 20 years.

Patton continues to participate in civil rights activities, events and continues his music interest as a member of the Pearl Cameron Community Choir.

Etta Simpson Ray

Etta Simpson Ray, one of 11 children, was born in Nashville. Ray began her college career at TSU in 1960 and was recruited by the Student Nonviolent Coordinator Committee to promote social change.

She demonstrated against racial intolerance in Nashville, Alabama and Georgia. Her Freedom Ride resulted in her arrest and imprisonment for over 30 days. Ray is a working member of the Church of Christ.

She currently drives a school bus for the Metro Nashville school system. Ray's

life focus has been dedication and service to others.

Clarence Melvin Wright

Clarence Melvin Wright, one of 10 children, was born in Mason, Tenn. Wright worked with his family as they participated in voter registration drives.

His experience as a Freedom Rider and study of non-violence principles and practices helped clarify his community work in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Detroit.

While in Detroit, he worked for Conrail and was an independent security contractor.

Wright died in instilling a passion for education and belief of justice and non-violence in family and friends.

Mary Jean Smith

Mary Jean Smith was born in Nashville. She enrolled at TSU to pursue a major in elementary education.

She joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities.

Her participation in the Freedom Ride resulted in her arrest and imprisonment. Upon her return to Nashville, she had been expelled from TSU.

After her reinstatement at the university she attended for a short period of time. Smith worked as a medical support staff at Meharry Hospital and Centennial Medical Center Women's Hospital.

She is a member of Ebenezer Community Church, has two children and continues to make speeches regarding the Civil Rights Movement.

Baba El Senzengakulu Zulu

The former Lester G. McKinnie, one of five children, was born in Bolivar, Tenn. At TSU he joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council.

He participated sit-ins, stand-ins, pickets and marches. As a result of his participation in the Freedom Ride he was arrested and imprisoned for over 30 days.

Zulu was chair of the committee while completing his degree at TSU.

He worked in the Civil Rights Movement for many years. He founded the Ujamaa School in Washington, DC in 1968 and has been its director for the past 39 years.

Zulu has eight children and was honored at the Howard University Blackburn

A Narrative in Design



The official symbol for the Freedom Riders celebration was designed by TSU alumnus David Walker.

The buses represent the mode of transportation taken by the Freedom Riders.

Rows of cotton fields place the geographic locale of where the Freedom Rides occurred.

Protesters marching along the road to freedom. Carrying the American flag these people challenge the American dream.

The rising sun represents the hopefulness that the Freedom Riders give us all today.

Protesters hold up sign that says "A&I 1961," for the old Tennessee A&I University and the year of the Freedom Riders.

ILLUSTRATION BY MARSHALL A. LATIMORE

Weekend of events attracts thousands of participants

Continued from page 1

public got an opportunity to shake hands, request autographs and listen to the wisdom of the Freedom Riders 14. They smiled for photos and exchanged hugs for the adoring stares of people wanting to witness living history.

Then, during the halftime tribute, the Aristocrat of Bands performed a crowd-stirring rendition of *We Shall Overcome*, leading the entire audience in chorus while the Freedom Riders 14 locked arms on the field. Around the colossal stadium, fans stood to their feet clenching hands and raised their voices in song.

A short while before the Convocation processional began, in a room away from the growing crowd, a strong but reticent Larry F. Hunter stood silently observing his comrades being donned with academic regalia while members of the press scrambled to grab sound bites and capture emotional moments on film.

"I know that I'm pretty quiet right now," said Hunter with a smile on his face. "But I'm very elated inside. Inside, I'm so giddy."

Meanwhile, a smiling, tearful woman nearby snapped away with her disposable camera in hand, eyes bright and unable to hide the joy she felt inside. Gloria McKissack, an American history instructor at the university, was once a TSU student in 1961. These people were her colleagues, her friends.

"Everything for me is coming full circle," she said. "It was some of these very people who recruited me to join the (Civil Rights) movement. I'm just elated, I'm all-aglow."

Many who participated in the weekend's events were among the thousands who sent letters, e-mails and phone messages urging that the Tennessee Board of Regents reverse its 7-5 vote to deny a the university's proposal to award honorary degrees to the then-Tennessee A&I students in late March.

Less than a month later, in a special-called April 25 telephonic meeting, the board voted unanimously to allow the university to "bestow upon all (14) Tennessee A&I Freedom Riders honorary doctorate degrees from (TSU) in honor of their unique acts of courage in 1961 that helped pave the

way for the freedoms we all enjoy today," as stated in a motion by Regent Greg Duckett.

TBR policy encouraged that its member institutions exercise selectivity and award "no more than two (honorary degrees) per year." Because of the policy, some of the members who initially opposed the awarding of the degrees, like Regent Jonas Kisber, said they voted no.

"Voting the way that I did was in no way to demean the Freedom Riders," Kisber said. "I admire them and what they did. However, the rule is two degrees per school per year."

Hampton addressed why the university opted not to award the degrees during the winter, summer or spring commencement ceremonies.

"Commencement is really about the students, and it's their day to be recognized for their diligence," Hampton explained. "Why put them in a context to compete with each other?"

Hampton also said the committee took advantage of Convocation to honor the Freedom Riders 14 so they could maximize the participation of current students. By the time winter and spring commencements take place, most students would have

already gone home.

"(The Freedom Riders 14) deserve (to be honored)," Hampton said. "After days and nights in jail, days and nights wondering about their educations, they deserve this. I'm just sorry it took 47 years for this day to come."

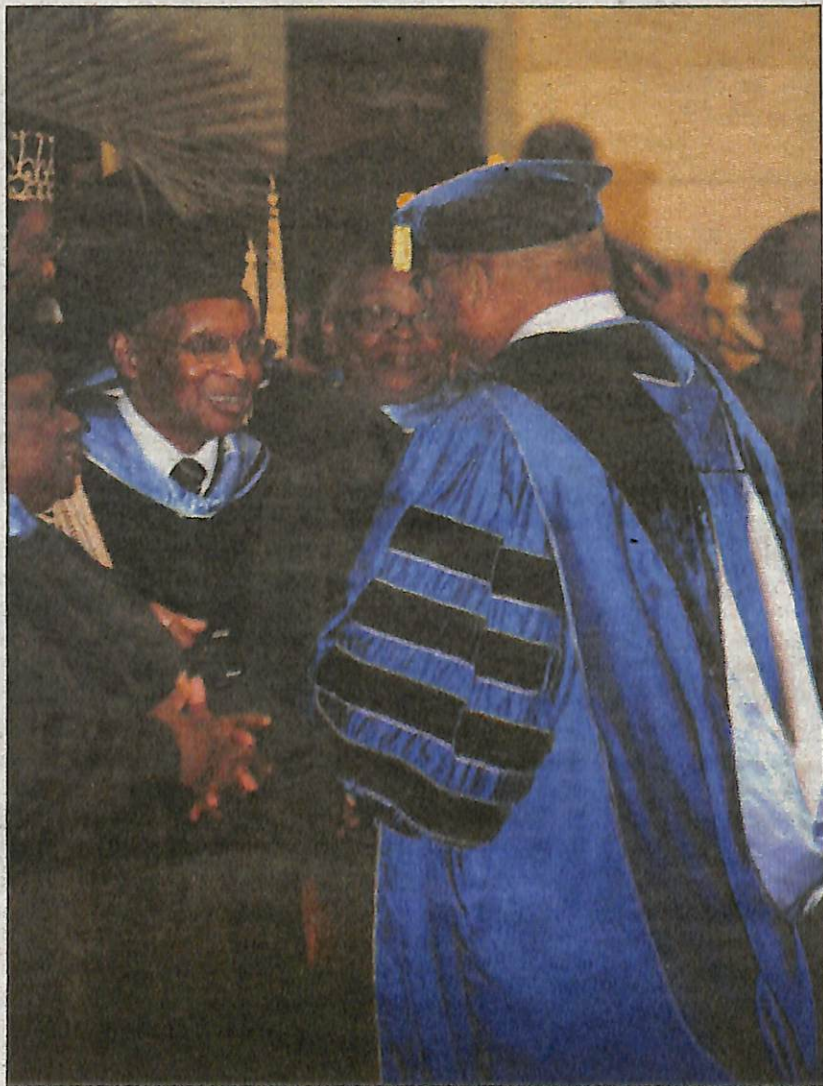
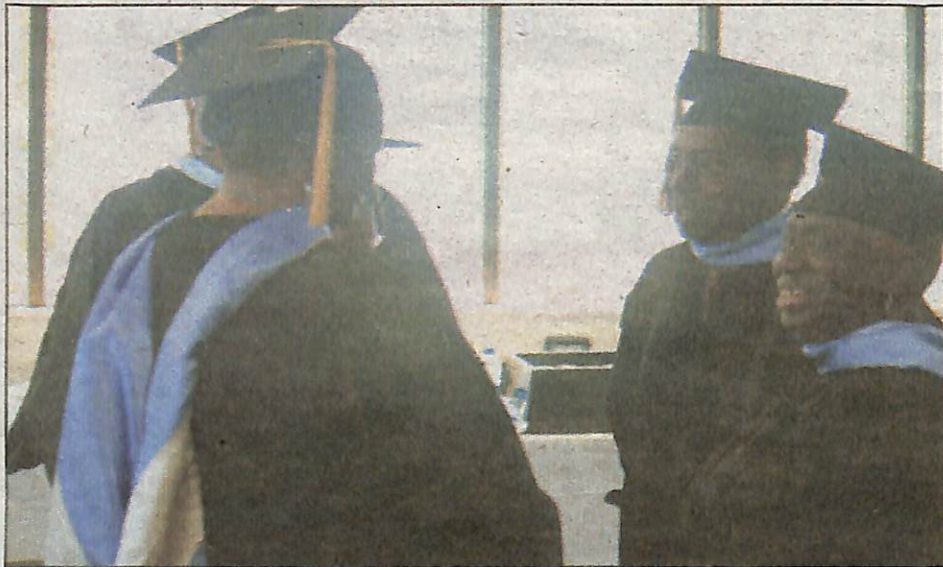
Among the many family members on hand to celebrate with the awarding of the degrees was TSU history professor Elizabeth McCain, the sister of William E. Harbour. While the ceremony was 47 years in the making, she recalled when things became tangible to her in Oct. 2004, when a student suggested in a forum that the Riders' legacy be honored.

"This is something we've been working on for a long time," said McCain. "We first asked (TBR) about this back in 2004."

McClain added, "These students were 18, 19, 20 and 21-year-olds who made out their wills before they went on the Freedom Rides because they didn't think they were coming back. So today's TSU students, you have a civil rights job to do. Your job is not over. Find your own civil rights journey."◦

FINALLY

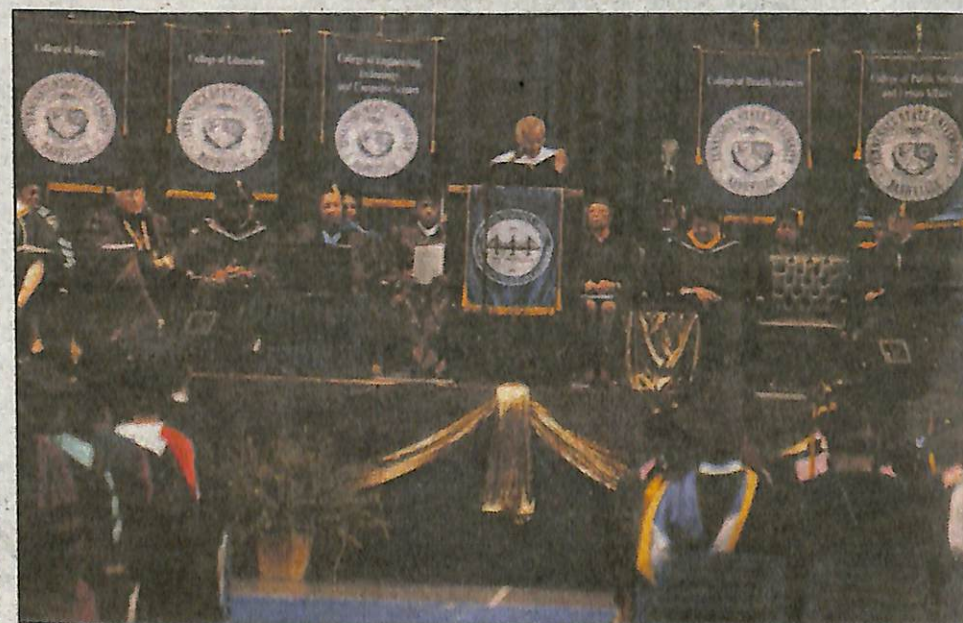
PHOTOS BY MARIO SUART



Clockwise from top left: Several of the Freedom Riders 14 chat with each other waiting for the Convocation to begin; tears form in the eyes of Sandra Mitchell, wife of William B. Mitchell who accepted his degree on his behalf; Catherine Burks-Brooks accepts her degree from TSU President Melvin N. Johnson; Johnson shares small talk with the Freedom Riders 14 minutes before the processional began.

FREEDOM RINGS

PHOTOS BY MARIO STUART

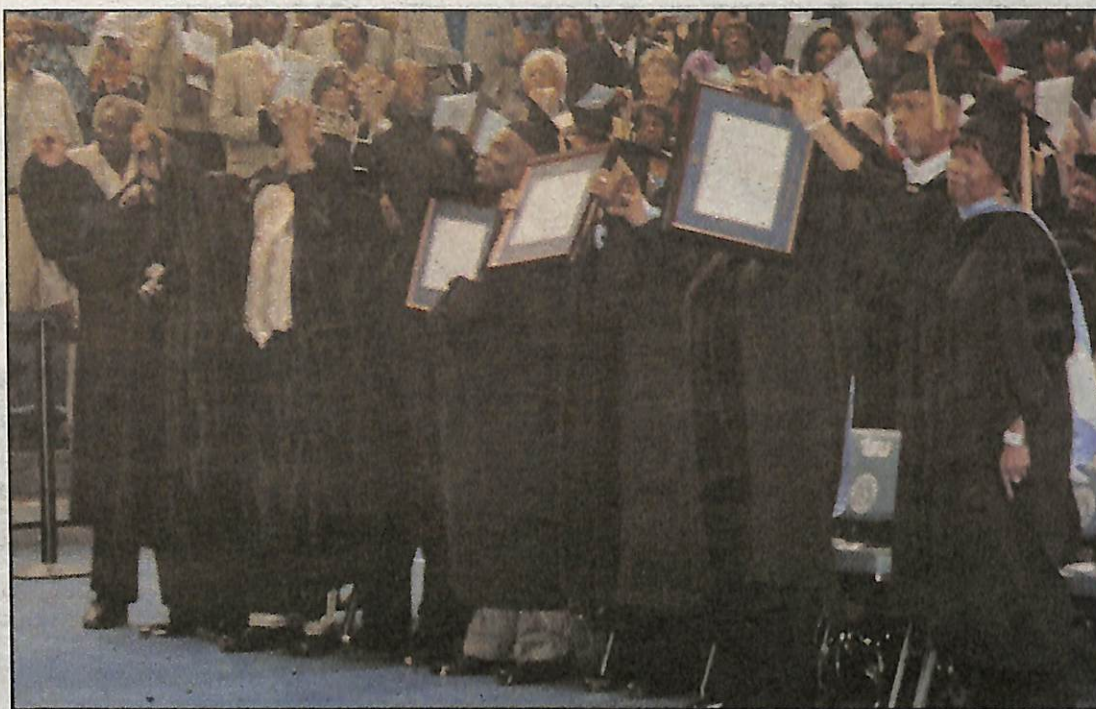


Clockwise from top left: Families and friends celebrate at the close of the Convocation; Gloria Johnson, interim dean of Arts & Sciences, carries the official university mace; Keynote speaker Rev. C.T. Vivian makes his Convocation address; Allen Cason Jr., one of the Freedom Riders 14, visibly celebrates as he ascends the stage.

ALMA MATER

The TSU Freedom Riders 14 raise their clenched hands in reverence to the university's *Alma Mater*.

PHOTO BY MARIO STUART



TBR reverses decision to not award honorary degrees

Continued from page 1



from the school. So, President Walter S. Davis had to uphold the law and expel the students.

Although some of the Freedom Riders did return to TSU, others attended different institutions of higher learning, and some did not finish their schooling at all.

Earlier this year, they were denied honorary degrees by the Tennessee Board of Regents. The faculty senate as well as many alumni, students, staff and community residents contacted the board urging the reversal.

On April 25, the board voted unanimously to award them the honorary degrees. So, on Thursday, campus wide support was felt as more than 1,000 students, faculty, staff and guests were greeted by key figures from the university.

TBR Chancellor Charles Manning, Faculty Senate Chair Sammy Comer, Staff Senate Chair Mary Gamble and Student Government Association President Patrick Walker-Reese welcomed the packed auditorium. John Cade, associate vice president of Enrollment Management introduced the platform guests.

About 95 elementary students from Smithson Craighead, the first charter school in Nashville, attended the celebration in hopes of receiving an interactive history lesson. Principal Janelle Glover said students read about the Freedom Riders and wanted to see them in person.

"We brought our 3rd and 4th graders, they learned about them in class, and could probably answer any question asked about them," she said. "We have board members from TSU

that extended the invitation to us and we could not pass that up. It was truly emotional."

Trehon Coleman, a senior computer science major from Nashville, works closely with the students and acknowledged his pride for both generations.

"Because of the (Freedom Riders) we are here today and we have a choice, these students are our future and I am excited that they were able to experience such an event."

Afternoon classes were cancelled so all could partake in the day's celebration.

Walker-Reese announced to students that Convocation is more than "a break from class," but momentous occasion that should be appreciated by all. He gave a message on love, service and sacrifice, and urged students to possess those aspects.

"I want to thank all the Freedom Riders, not just the 14 that we are honoring today, but the many that participated in sit-ins, stand-ins, bus boycotts and those who took abuse for the right to go school," said President Melvin N. Johnson.

Johnson introduced the keynote speaker, Rev. C.T. Vivian, a Civil Rights Movement advocate, who worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr.

He came to Nashville in 1959 and participated in marches and Freedom Rides. Vivian reminisced and told of the days when students took charge of current situations.

"Many movements began with students; we realized that despite the nation, we had to do what was right," Vivian said. "We took action and our greatest discovery of knowledge came from the streets."

He admits that while students came together to make a change, it would not

have been possible without some higher external forces.

"Through the years, as you get older you realize that only God can bring you through times like we had," Vivian said. "We did not break the law; we just broke the culture that wasn't worth obeying."

Concluding his speech, Vivian urged the audience that we should not become comfortable and complacent with the state the world is in today.

"Until we lead, let's be together and change the nation," he said.

Jana Outerbridge, a junior psychology major from Bermuda, expressed her pride in the ceremony and was excited that she came out to witness the event, even though she did not have to.

"One of my teachers told me about it and said we did not have to write a paper on it, but I decided to come see it anyway," she said. "I am glad I did."

"It was historic, a blessing, special; I can't use one word because it was so much," she said while laughing. "To see them shed tears was so powerful and heartfelt because you could tell that they were appreciative and humble."

"I got to see history first hand, and others should be excited that they were given the opportunity to witness this," she continued.

Javaris Polk, a sophomore health sciences major from Birmingham, agreed and said, "This was a revitalization of history, and to get to experience it is an honor."

Polk found it wrong for students to skip out on Convocation and miss such an important part of the university's history.

"They missed out on such a blessing that will never happen again, and I think it's disrespectful to (the Freedom Riders) and

the university."

Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life and Housing William Hytche, said he agreed the students should have made time to attend, and was upset that many student left the ceremony early.

"We need our administration to train these students better about walking out (during an event)," he said. "To have an event like this on your own campus, and you can't even tell your children or your grandchildren about it."

"I don't care if my toughest class started at 2:40 (p.m.) I wouldn't have left. They would have had to flunk me," he added.

The music department, including the university choir and Aristocrat of Bands wind ensemble rendered appropriate selections to fit the mood as the choir sang *Keep on Traveling Solider*, and the band played Marvin Sapp's *Never Would Have Made It*.

Much emotion filled the crowd as the main event approached. After 47 years of waiting, 10 students finally walked across the stage and received their degrees.

Four of the 14 Freedom Riders have passed on and family members received their degrees posthumously.

Although the AFROTC retired the colors at the end of the ceremony, Gentry remained full for quite some time as multiple pictures were taken and hugs and kisses were given by many.

An invitation-only reception followed, and an entire weekend of events, including a meet and greet with students and a tribute during Saturday's game's half-time show, was planned and dedicated to the courageous men and women who took a seat for current students. •

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Monday, September 22, 2008

Volume 59 Issue 5

Seek protection from identity theft

By Winston Mize
Staff Reporter

Identity theft is heard in the news quite often nowadays, and many say it cannot or will not happen to them. Some believe that identity theft only happens to people with large amounts of money or small businesses.

In reality, college students are prime targets for identity theft. Everything from the multitude of credit card offers trashed, to the sketchy places bootleg Coach bags are bought from, make students vulnerable to become identity theft victims.

Here are 10 tips to avoid becoming a victim of identity fraud that everyone should try to take notice of and practice:

The tangled World Wide Web

Do not ever send personal information in a e-mail, IM or other forms of messaging via World Wide Web.

Personal information can include

Social Security numbers, account numbers, personal identification numbers, credit card numbers, etc.

It is said that what is sent on the Internet actually is seen by many different eyes before it reaches its destination. Some instances are slightly less risky than others, but think twice about sending personal information via the Internet.

Passwords must vary

Pick good passwords. That cannot be stressed enough. Pick a password that is not something easy to guess or utterly obvious.

Choose PIN's, passwords and user names wisely. Make sure they are not something like a birthday, phone number or address.

As for online log-ins, if the computer asks to save the password, click no, it is wise to just type in the password each and every time.

Be careful of what is said

Restrict the amount of information

given out in all circumstances. If someone sends an e-mail, or calls and it is unclear as to whom it is, hang up or do not reply. Never disclose any personal information.

Private use, safer than public

Do not use a public computer to check account details or look at personal information. Closing the window does not erase the history, and anyone could just go stumbling onto personal information.

Always check to see if the site is a Secure Sockets Layer Web site. The little padlock in the lower right hand corner of the browser window and "https" as opposed to "http" are indicators that the site is a Secure Sockets Layer Web site.

Watch the mail

Make sure addresses are not put out over the Internet. Also be sure to put outgoing mail in the United States Post Office boxes as opposed to personal ones.

Shredding

Buy a shredder. Either shred personal documents or buy a lock box and safely deposit and file any documents with credit card statements, Social Security numbers and account details.

Check credit

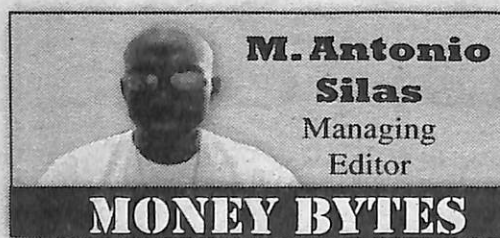
Check individual credit reports at least once a year. Check it through Equifax, TransUnion or Experian because federal law requires these three credit bureaus give a free copy once a year.

If wanting to be really cautious, then requesting a printout of the report every four months may be an option.

Check transactions

Make sure to look over account summaries carefully. If any weird or unusual transactions are noticed, report it immediately. Also, if mailed statements look as if they have been opened and resealed, report that as well.

Technology plays lead role in protests today



People find something to protest every day. We all unconsciously rally against the injustices that plague us.

Upset about gas prices? Type a short blurb about it on Flickr. Mad because a favorite artist canceled a show in your city? Write them on MySpace and let them know how you feel.

Did your significant other/friend with benefits or indefinable party in a relationship wrong you in some sort of way? Let them know by broadcasting your feelings on your Facebook status.

Technology makes protesting readily accessible to any user that needs it.

Think about the possible progression of important movements in the past that would have been benefited from technology.

Throughout the Civil Rights Movement messages were mostly conveyed by going into the communities and protesting. Before it happened, correspondence about the Million Man March was most likely sent via phone and letters. Think about how technology could have amplified an already powerful movement.

If there's going to be a major event these days, a text message will most likely be sent out about it. A great example of this (had it happened) would have been the supposed financial aid protest a few weeks back. Technology is a great way to rally and call people to arms, but is technology being used to its full potential?

Believe it or not, when something's put on the Internet, people read it. One may never know exactly how many, but his or

her message is possibly reaching hundreds of people at any given time.

When posting something on the Internet, why exactly does one do it? What message is he or she trying to get across? What's the goal in posting on message boards? When a mass text is sent out about something meaningful, what kind of response are is expected?

Oftentimes people don't think that deeply about it, but it's worth taking into consideration. Technology is a resource that people can use to make others aware of the things that ail our community.

While the Internet has been around for quite some time now, it is still a newer medium of communication.

It's an intricate frame work that is seen by billions of people all over the world on a daily basis. The voice of the Internet is truly an amazing thing.

The ability to let people across the world know how you feel about a subject is

something powerful that hasn't reached its full potential.

Make sure you utilize your technological resources; they're something that protesters in the past would have benefited from.

Think about how the Freedom Riders could have used technology. They did a phenomenal job with what they had at the time. The effect that technology could have had on a movement like that is unimaginable.

If students believe something is wrong, they should use their voices to bring light to it. Online petitions, mass e-mails, text messages, blogs and e-mail lists are all great ways to let the online community know about things in different places. The next time you see something that needs to be corrected, complain about it; start a movement.

If information from the online community is disseminated into the communities we live in, a chain reaction of change could see the light of day.





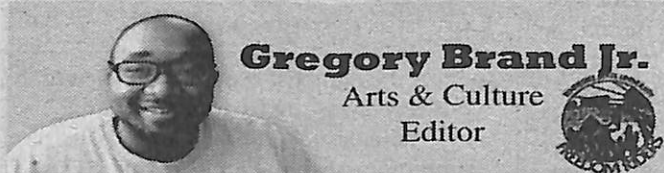
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ARTS CULTURE

Monday, September 22, 2008

Volume 59 Issue 5



Gregory Brand Jr.
Arts & Culture
Editor

KEEPING IT REAL

SUBSTANCE OVER FLUFF

A new page has been added to the history books as 14 TSU graduates now dwell among the greats.

TSU marked this momentous occasion by at long last giving the honors, the accolades and the degrees that rightfully belonged to the Tennessee State Freedom Riders.

While the Freedom Riders' efforts in the Civil Rights Movement helped define Nashville and its institutions of higher education – during the period where people were striving and fighting for change – they were, above all else, students.

They did what they felt was right, despite the consequences that would inevitably befall them.

Consequently, 14 of them paid the ultimate academic price. They were expelled from their university under the ruling of the state's university governing body.

This expulsion wasn't the result of some lapse in judgment or a misinformed choice. The students simply decided to ride out in favor of justice rather than keep quiet. They favored outright equality and freedom, instead of implied order and racial restriction enforced by the nation's government.

At some point during the course of their activities, they had to have known there was danger. They must have been concerned about their lives, their families, their safety and their education. Fortunately, for the generations that followed, those worries were not enough to stop them.

On Sept. 18, those magnificent 14 transitioned from almost mythical legends and fighters for freedom into nationally recognized opponents of injustice.

They have effectively made the ascension from legendary to legend. And the same governing body that snatched their degrees from them in the first place is now honoring them.

Through all of the adversity, we remain now as then mighty Tigers. My question to TSU students currently attending: can we still be as great?

Are there still Tigers willing to fight the good fight in times when the fight is no longer in the streets but in higher places? There are no hoses driving back the mission and no dogs snapping their teeth at change and progress.

Yet there are too many students and people in general that allow fear and their own comfort stand between them and taking action.

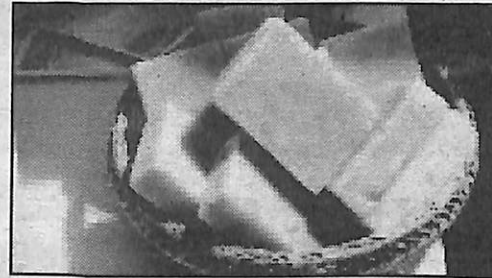
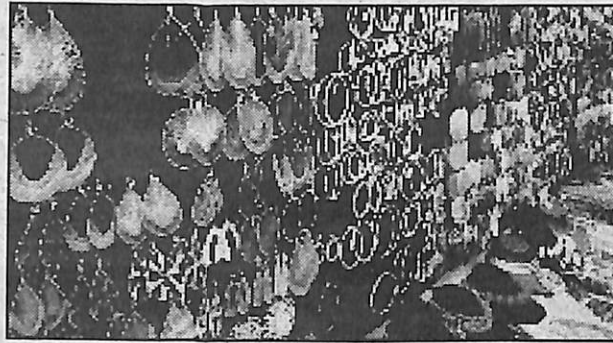
There are heroes every generation, and I truly believe it's time for those who truly are leaders to stand up.

Also, for those meant to help make legends achieve more than just become empty symbols, they should do their parts as well.

Student issues are our issues. When any injustice

See "Take" on page 16

STREET FESTIVAL



PHOTOS BY CARLISA PRIDGEN AND ROBERT BUTLER

The African Street Festival has a lot to offer for students and Nashville residents.

By **M. Antonio Silas**
Managing Editor

The Annual African Street Festival took place behind the TSU Gentry Center on Sept. 19-21.

The African American Culture Alliance of Nashville put this event on for 26 years with the crowd growing

larger every time.

The African Street Festival brings vendors of black merchandise from all over the U.S. to Nashville for a weekend of food, fun, shows, African art and beauty supplies.

Thousands of people from Nashville and surrounding areas come out to the festival to purchase anything from books to shea oil.

The event has grown from its humble beginnings and now attracts over 100,000 visitors. Its growing popularity gained the attention of local media outlets, and has become a well-known annual event in the Nashville community.

"I've been selling books for 17 years," said Vincent Hamilton, owner

See "Black" on page 17

PICKS OF THE PACK

After attending fall Convocation, how does the story of the Freedom Riders 14 affect you?



"Yes, they motivated me to get my degree no matter what it takes or how hard it gets. Especially being black in today's society."

Bedengere Burrow
Freshman
Political Science
Memphis



"Yes because they did a lot and it shows how far we've come by honoring them today. It was a drastic move and I am happy about that."

Ashley Johnson
Sophomore
Psychology
Knoxville, Tenn.



"It was a positive thing because they were standing up for what they believe in. I am glad to see they got what they deserve."

Kevin Dunham
Junior
Computer Science
Cleveland



"It affected me a little. I found it inspiring. I wish I could have gone to the ceremony but it is nice to see they finally got their degrees."

India Turner
Senior
Psychology
St. Louis



Campus lyricist drops mixtape

Weetu
Voice of the Streets, vol.1
4/5

Often times in college, you may find an influx of "artists" trying to get their foot in the door of the entertainment industry.

With the over-saturation on the local rap scene, it's often difficult to distinguish something either worth bumping in the whip or something worth using as a coaster.

TSU's own Weetu, the self-proclaimed "Voice of the Streets," presents her latest offering to TSU students as well as the Nashville community.

Voice of the Streets Vol. 1 delivers decent wordplay, notable instrumentals and interesting subject matter all in one package.

After a light-hearted intro by comedian Ronnie Jordan, Weetu gets straight to the point with the single *WAWG*.

Her signature flow that's tinged with Atlanta flavor delves away from the com-

mon 'gun-toting dope boy' wordplay that's usually heard on the radio. Weetu keeps an instrumental mind frame on *Still I Rise*, using T.I.'s *Still I Stand* beat.

VOTS provides a nice mixture of mixtape tracks as well as original songs.

The single *Deeply Rooted* laments her love and determination for the rap game through clever narration that pulls the listener into her story.

The live instrumentation throughout the song embodies the experience even further.

One of the refreshing aspects of *VOTS* is the fact that it contains diverse subject matter.

Weetu covers topics onto the mixtape, such as discovering her writing skill at an early age, her affinity for faith, her distaste for cliché music and her drive to succeed.

Oftentimes, rap albums suffer the pitfall of sticking to one subject. Having money, drugs and sex comes to mind. Weetu dodges conformity flawlessly throughout most of the songs.

VOTS features a small cast of local artists. The mixtape isn't so crowded that it sounds more like a compilation.

Weetu doesn't lose her shine amongst the select featured artists that are on *VOTS*, not to mention the artists don't take away from the songs.

One of the only negative points of *VOTS* is the parts where Weetu isn't spitting. The select PSAs, interviews and interludes take away from the mixtape's flow without adding anything substantive.

Thankfully, these breaks are few and far in between. While the production quality of the album is good overall, small dead spots in between tracks tend to remind the listener that this is a local effort.

Overall, *Voice of the Streets, vol. 1* is an offering worth listening to. Weetu's refreshing songs and lyrics will truly leave you yearning for more. Hopefully, volume two is on the way.

M. Antonio Silas

Take advantage of opportunities to be an activist

Continued from page 15

befalls the campus, brothers and sisters, it is your responsibility to do something.

There is no reason for there to be an empty convocation. There is no reason for students to face university or federal opposition alone.

There is no reason for sparsely attended football games to occur. There is no reason there should be empty ballots in SGA elections.

By coming to TSU you have an opportunity to mark your own place in history so I challenge everyone not to waste it.

Continue to make Big Blue Country a place where the most unlikely scholars become successful business people, known professionals and now world-renowned legends.

Perry film combines good story with great cast

A Family That Preys—A-

The newest film from the apparent king of black theater and cinema, Tyler Perry, succeeds where previous efforts have fallen short or failed altogether.

A Family That Preys is an engaging drama that showcases a clearly visible good and evil but never loses the viewer by becoming grossly unrealistic or over-the-top.

The film opens with a wedding of epic proportions. In the backyard of a gorgeous plantation-style mansion, two old friends are overjoyed. One of their daughters, Andrea (Sanaa Lathan), is getting married.

Here, family and friends unite to witness the union of two beautiful black people, and the country backdrop sets the film's southern and hospitable tone.

Amid all the hustle and bustle of the house in preparation for the ceremony, the bride-to-be is anything but gleeful.

In an interesting fashion, she is particularly snotty to everyone around her. It becomes apparent that even though she is getting



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOVIES.YAHOO.COM

Kathy Bates and Alfre Woodard star in Lionsgate Films' Tyler Perry's *The Family That Preys*.

married to a really "nice guy," she wants way more than he can provide.

Andrea's beau, Chris (Rockmond Dunbar), loves her deeply, but experiences in her past and in college have left her wanting money and trappings beyond the span of a construction worker's earnings.

The latter becomes even more apparent when a spark is ignited between Andrea and William (Cole Hauser), who's the white son

of Andrea's mother's best friend.

After the wedding, it becomes clear that this lavish wedding was not the work of a middle class African-American family, but was instead an extremely generous gift from Alice's (Alfre Woodard) lifelong pal, Charlotte (Kathy Bates).

Charlotte is a construction tycoon and her son just happens to be the leading agent in her multi-million dollar company.

The film then fast-forwards four years ahead. The characters

are all living their lives in different ways and each of them are showcased.

While Andrea's older sister Pam (Taraji Henson) is enjoying a loving marriage, Andrea and Chris's marriage is a little different.

Even though they do have a child, Andrea ignores and disrespects Chris because he doesn't make as much money as she does.

While Andrea's life moves away from her husband and falls elsewhere, her mother Alice and Charlotte begin having fun by living their lives to the fullest for seemingly no reason.

The film that follows explores relationships in several aspects.

There are studies of male friends, female friends, couples, siblings and even in-laws here that are represented well. The interactions are priceless and so is the story.

While this film is seemingly the typical relationship movie that Perry is now known for, *A Family That Preys* is so much more.

There are several stories here and some even strike a chord that many fans may find themselves deeply affected by.

There is also another power-

ful element in this film besides the story itself.

The cast here delivers stellar performances. Woodard and Bates play very well on-screen, while the animosity between the sisters Henson and Lathan is dead on.

Surprisingly, Robin Givens also delivers as the straight-laced chief operating officer, appointed by Charlotte to keep her hotshot son in line.

Ultimately, this film is a brilliantly written work that deserves a second look even if Perry's previous works left a sour taste in your mouth.

A Family That Preys, as proven by the all-star, multi racial cast, is a definite departure from his normal fare.

Prey's only flaw is how choppy the film begins. The transition between the wedding and the present is a little too quick. Letting the viewer see the actual wedding might have added a punch of authenticity.

Bottom Line: The film is an absolute must see for anyone that likes a good story and great actors. The film only fails miserably at being "ghetto."

Gregory Brand Jr.

Black-owned businesses began in 1960s

Continued from page 1

of Hamilton Book Store, a business based out of Augusta, Ga. "I've been coming to the African Street Festival for six years now. It's a great festival to be a part of."

"The fees to participate are ridiculously high," Hamilton continued. "It costs me roughly \$425 to be a part of this festival every year."

"Most of the vendors are so desperate they put all of their money into making the trek down here," Hamilton said. "They really can't afford it. They all took their last monies to be here, hoping it would help them get over the hump."

The origin of the black-owned business dates back to the 1960s, when segregation was still prevalent in the U.S.

Blacks started their own businesses to assist their community and support their race, as opposed to purchasing from white businesses.

Today in the U.S., there are still over 800,000 black businesses, according to the 2001 census.

While the festival is typically an event for black businesses to sell their products, there were also a host of community service organizations with booths, including Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee and the Boy Scouts of America.

Lenette Henderson, a member of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, was on hand at the African Street Festival to tell people about their services and about disabilities.

"This is my third consecutive year at the festival," Kennedy said. "I believe we've had great success with letting people know about the different services we offer and it's very much worth my time."

"We do have quite a few people stop by that have developmental disabilities in their families," Kennedy added. "It might not be as effective while people are shopping, but we are here to remind them that disabilities are everywhere. We're here to let people know that people with disabilities are at the forefront of our research."

Jessica Briers, a sophomore business administration major from Nashville, has mixed feelings about the event.

"It's a great opportunity to get different types of oils and things, but a lot of these vendors just sell bootlegged merchandise," Briers said.

Nicholas Brown, a freshman chemistry major from St. Louis, said, "I really enjoy the festival," said. "I believe whatever I can give back will benefit the black community."

PeaceJam continues aim for change



Joy Ngoma
Contributing
Columnist

KEEPING IT REAL

LOS ANGELES - In Los Angeles, six Nobel Peace Prize Laureates - Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Betty Williams, Shirin Ebadi, Jody Williams, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, and Adolfo Pérez Esquivel - came together for the PeaceJam's 2008 Global Call to Action Conference.

The conference, which celebrated 10 years of holding the annual meetings, was held throughout Sept. 11-13.

PeaceJam is a program built around 12 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, who worked hand-in-hand with the youth from all over the world.

The goal of PeaceJam is to motivate and inspire young people to transform their lives in a positive manner by making a difference in their own communities and worldwide.

In a special exclusive report to The Meter, Joy Ngoma - the granddaughter of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu and TSU Tiger - gives a commentary on the event's happenings and some of the timeless words shared there.

As the first seminar began, I sat in the front row, trying to record every minute of this conference that took place at Loyola Marymount University's gymnasium.

The walls are covered with posters that read "PeaceJam, Change Starts Here." When I looked around, I spotted passionate young people who seem determined to make a difference, and suddenly, the message on the posters seem possible.

The laureates one-by-one reached the microphone and inspired the audience by

motivating them to keep fighting for what is right.

Once prize laureate Betty Williams spoke, she instructed all of us to give the people we sat next to a hug, to show that we cared.

Jody Williams explained to the audience that, "Peace is not serenity or kumbayah," which I found interesting, since I have been dying to ask the laureates what peace really means to them. Little did I know, that question would get answered and then some.

On Sunday morning, I got a chance to interview the passionate Jody Williams.

I asked her what peace means to her and she said, "We need to reclaim the meaning of peace...peace is not the dove, the rainbow, serenity and kumbayah; motivating people to fight for what is morally right is peace."

She also went on to say that the youth should act now. "We are not the children of tomorrow. We are the children of today."

During the event, young people from different schools presented their various projects and organizations to the laureates and explained their progress in working towards peace.

Selected youth even shared their inspirational stories with the audience.

They also asked the laureates to share what inspires them to keep fighting for peace. Naomi Tutu - the daughter of Desmond Tutu, who is an international speaker on race, gender and international relations - shared with the audience on what inspires her: "The faces of the families in South Africa, who lost their loved ones during the Apartheid era, who were genu-

inely willing to forgive the perpetrators, and who desperately wanted to see change in the country."

While attending the conference, I realized that all mankind, both young and old, need to pay attention to what is going on in our communities. Get involved by helping those who are in need. There are many who never get the opportunity to express what they need to help them.

At PeaceJam, there is an opportunity for the possibility of change to enter the minds of a generation that can make it happen. Our world is troubled and it is your responsibility as a citizen to make a difference.

Thomas Paine once said, "The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion."

There does not need to be a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate or a celebrity to make a difference. You can take action in your own communities, schools and universities.

You can start by being part of this year's election by getting people to register and vote. You could also help the old lady at the grocery store, or even just smile and say hello to the homeless man.

Little things like that make a difference. As Gandhi said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." At the close of my interviews, prize laureate Jody Williams had a message for all TSU students.

"Peace is hard work, peace is sexy, peace is hard, and peace is now. Power to the peaceful, so be a TIGER peacenik."

In her own way she let students know it's OK to fight for peace, so get out there and make a difference. The voiceless will appreciate it.

The Laureates of PeaceJam

The Dalai Lama (awarded the Nobel in 1989, for his nonviolent effort to resolve Tibetan conflicts).

Desmond Tutu (awarded the Nobel in 1984, for nonviolent solution against the Apartheid government in South Africa).

Rigoberta Menchú Tum (in 1992, as a peaceful advocate of Native Rights in Central America)

President Oscar Arias (in 1987, for peaceful resolutions to the years of war and conflict in Central America. He is the current president of Costa Rica)

Aung San Suu Kyi (in 1991, by taking leadership of the democratic opposition in Burma,

using principles of Gandhi. She has been under house arrest since 1989)

Jody Williams (in 1997, for creating an international treaty to ban landmines)

Máiread Corrigan Maguire and Betty Williams (shared the award in 1976, for their movement to end violence in Northern Ireland)

Shirin Ebadi (in 2003, for democracy, peace and women's right in Iran and The Middle East)

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (in 1980, for human rights and true democracy for the people of Latin America)

José Ramos-Horta (in 1996, for his effort to end oppression to the people of East Timorese)

Sir Joseph Rotblat (in 1995, for nuclear disarmament and creating the Pugwash Conference)



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOY NGOMA

Joy and Betty Williams.



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SPORTS

Monday, September 22, 2008

Volume 59 Issue 5

Tigers shut down conference foe EKU

By Patrick Comer
Sports Editor

Rattlers beware because these Tigers are for real. TSU defeated the Eastern Kentucky University Colonels on Saturday, 34-20.

In front of a crowd of 8,276, the Tigers made it look like child's play on kids' day at the game.

Head Coach James Webster said he was proud of the crowd.

"With the conditions of the economy, people getting laid off and how hard it is finding gas, I was very happy and proud of those who came out and supported the team," he said.

The Tigers jumped on the Colonels on their first drive of the game, grabbing the early lead and leaving EKU with few options.

"They earned the victory," Webster said. "They worked hard. I think it's good for the players, students and university."

The Tigers scored on their first two possessions. Despite an interception from senior quarterback Antonio Heffner near midfield, the Tigers' defense didn't allow the Colonels into the end zone until the end of the first half.

After an EKU touchdown, the Tigers answered right back heading down field to the EKU 3-yard line.

However, with time running

short in the first half, the Tigers elected to kick a field goal and take a 20-13 lead into the locker room.

"We played well against them defensively and as a team," Webster said.

The second half started like the first half of the game for the Tigers as they marched right down field to EKU's goal line.

However, with the ball carrier Javarris Williams, a senior halfback from Richmond, Texas, fumbling the ball, despite a replay showing that he was down, the Colonels recovered the ball in their own endzone adverting the threat.

This was one of the questionable calls from game officials that sparked boos from fans during the showing of the play.

"We got 11 penalty calls against us and they only had three," Webster said. "I'll let the people in attendance and those watching speak on them."

Later when asked if he felt that instant replay would ever be added to college football champion subdivision, he replied, "(There's) a cost factor that goes into getting it. It costs a lot of money to have it, which is why (only) division one programs have it."

The Tigers' defense would stand tall though, not allowing EKU to get anything going as they

would force a punt.

The Tigers offense then continued to have success as they moved the ball effectively down field in a drive capped off by a 19-yard touchdown reception to Brandon Belvin, a senior wide receiver from Arlington, Texas.

This was his second touchdown reception of the game and his third in the last two games.

The score extended the Tigers' lead to 27-13. EKU, however, was not out of the game as they scored a touchdown on their next possession to bring the score to 27-20 heading into the final period of play.

In the fourth quarter, the Tigers got things started as Heffner orchestrated a 65-yard drive down field capped off with a 3-yard touchdown pass to Ronald Evans, a senior from Birmingham, Ala.

The score put the Tigers ahead by 34-20, which would turn out to be the final score as the Tigers would run out the final 5:32 of the game.

Heffner led the Tigers passing attack throwing for 312 yards, completing 20 of 28 attempts and adding three touchdowns. He also netted 48 yards on the ground as part of a rushing attack that racked up 229 yards total.

Williams, a major force coming out of the backfield, finished the game with 117 yards on 17 attempts.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM JORDAN/TSUTIGERS.COM

Tiger receiver Brandon Belvin runs past Colonel defenders in Saturday's game against Eastern Kentucky University.

Dante Thomas, a Redshirt-freshman from Dallas, also chipped in carrying the ball 13 times for 44 yards.

Leading the Tigers' defense was Larry Williford, a senior defensive back from Moultrie, Ga., who finished the game with nine tackles and a force fumble that set up the Tigers' second touchdown of the game.

Up next for the Tigers are the Florida A&M Rattlers in the Atlanta Football Classic. The

game will be held at the Georgia Dome on Saturday, Sept. 27. Big Blue will be looking to beat them for the first time since Webster arrived.

The Atlanta Football Classic, while normally very defensive minded looks to be anything but that this year with both teams coming off very strong offensive performances.

The Tigers' defense however, "is going to be up for the challenge," Webster said.

Lady Tigers drop two matches, record now 1-6

The Lady Tigers dropped to 1-6 on the year after losing on Saturday to Tennessee Tech University. The loss was the Lady Tigers second in a week where they secured their first victory of the season.

The Tigers defeated the Alabama A&M University Bulldogs in four sets on Tuesday night in Kean Hall for their first win.

In the game, The Lady Tigers were led on offense by Christian Lowe, who compiled 16 kills and added 10 digs.

Candace Saleaumua turned in 24

assists with 12 digs and seven kills.

On Friday night, against Jacksonville State University, the Lady Tigers couldn't repeat their performance from earlier in the week.

They started strong in the game, winning the first set, 25-20. They then lost the second set by only three, 22-25. In the third set they bounced back and put themselves in position to win by capturing the set 25-19.

The next set was a heavily-contested struggle, which featured 17 ties and 16 lead

changes. The score went back and forth down the stretch as neither team could quite close the other out.

However, it was the Lady Tigers who faltered first. A TSU attack error on game point gave the Gamecocks a 31-29 win.

In the final set JSU held off TSU, securing the set and the match, 3-2.

On Saturday, TSU matched against-against Tennessee Tech University. However, they dug themselves a massive hole by dropping the first two sets.

In the third set, the Tigers turned in 13 kills and held the Golden Eagles to a .105 hitting percentage in the set.

With a slight 24-23 lead, the Tigers got a kill by Christian Lowe that gave TSU the 25-23 set three win, extending the match to a fourth set. In the final set, the Golden Eagles soared to a 5-1 lead they would eventually stretch to a nine-point advantage.

From there it was only a matter of holding on as they would secure the final set 25-17.

GET READY GET READY GET READY for *Career Awareness Explosion-2008*

(Kean Hall Gymnasium 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)



Students/Alumni Prepare for the Following Events

COMING SOON!!

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL FAIR, SEPTEMBER 23RD

TECHNICAL CAREER FAIR, SEPTEMBER 24TH

UNIVERSITY-WIDE CAREER FAIR, SEPTEMBER 25TH

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