

Monday, Sept. 14, 2009

THE METER

Serving the Tennessee State University community since 1950

NASHVILLE, TENN.

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VOLUME 60, ISSUE 4



**classic
VICTORY**

Tigers nab ninth
consecutive Southern
Heritage Classic win.

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TSU's potential leaders nominated

By Ashleigh Taylor
NEWS EDITOR

Curious spectators and eager potential leaders filled the Robert N. Murrell Forum Sunday, Sept. 6th, to witness the future of TSU's SGA leadership.

Twelve vacant SGA posts, including the offices of president and vice president, and six executive freshmen positions were available and open for this semester's special elections campaign season.

THE METER previously reported that ten positions were left vacant for the upcoming school year as a result of several candidates not meeting post-certification requirements while two additional positions were abandoned by resignations from qualified students.

While the nomination convention served as an event for candidates to be nominated, the final vote and placement of the officers has been postponed indefinitely according to Robert Horton SEC Chairman.

Freshman campaigning took place September 6-11, and voting will be today and tomorrow, however announcements of winners will not be made until further notice.

The sophomore class began the SGA nomination convention, immediately following the Freshman nominations, by opening the floor.



(l-r) Warren Dean, Acquanetta Donnell and Mario Price are nominated for SGA president. Sascha Mallicott is the lone candidate for vice president.

Former sophomore class Vice President Jasmine Anderson threw her bid in for the presidency of her class.

She admitted her run for the position came from an influential conversation with former Sophomore Class President Mike Bethea.

"After hearing what happened to Mike he asked me to step up to the plate," said the sophomore nursing major from Nashville. "He thought I would be great for the position and I (could not) disagree."

Triplets Malcolm, Maurice and Myron Kimes were all nominated for positions ranging from sophomore class president, vice president and class representative. The brothers intend to revamp the classes leadership and exposure.

"After what happened it is time for a serious change," said Myron Kimes a sophomore engineering major from

Harvey, Ill.

The measure of student concern proved abundant, since only two of the vacant positions will run unopposed. The unopposed positions are senior class president and SGA vice president.

Current Speaker of the House Brittney Brooks was nominated for SGA vice president during the nomination convention along with Sascha Mallicott.

Mallicott, a senior speech communications and theatre major from Harvey, Ill. said "it is time for a change (and) I am that change."

Since Sunday's convention, Brooks has revoked her nomination as SGA vice president.

It was brought to the attention of Dean of Student Activities, Robert Myles, by an anonymous source, that it was unfair for Brooks to run since

she currently serves as Speaker of the House.

"If I remained in the race I would have to abandon my position as Speaker of the House," said Brooks, a junior biochemistry major from Baltimore. "I could not leave the House of Delegates hanging."

Brooks currently serves as the Interim SGA president. If she had remained in the race, her current duties would be suspended and leave SGA in a standstill.

Mallicott now runs an unopposed campaign similar to the campaign run by former vice president-elect Danny Glover.

"The students (are not) getting a choice," said Danny Glover a senior political science major from Macon, Ga. "Everybody's interest is not being met with unopposed campaigns."

Seniors Mario Price, Warren Dean and Acquanetta Donnell have entered the race for SGA president.

In his nomination acceptance speech, Dean informed the attending student body of his "normal guy" status.

"I am new guy to SGA," said Dean, a senior biology major from Nashville. "I have no Greek affiliation or popularity pull. I want to serve the TSU community."

As campaign season takes off, the university must prepare as student leaders fight to the finish as servants for TSU.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS - CALENDAR

MONDAY

81° 64°
HI LO

Freshman Elections
Voting Avon Williams Campus
TSU ID Required
4-8:30 p.m. AWC Lobby

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
presents Financial Aid Seminar
7 p.m. FPCC Rm. 210

TUESDAY

84° 64°
HI LO

Freshmen Elections
Voting Main Campus

TSU ID Required

10 a.m.-5 p.m. FPCC Lobby

Karaoke Night
7 p.m. Elliot Hall Auditorium

WEDNESDAY

85° 65°
HI LO

WTST Radio
11 a.m. FPCC Courtyard

TSU vs. Southern Pep Rally
12 noon Amphitheater

Meditation Meeting
12 noon FPCC Rm. 219

THURSDAY

81° 63°
HI LO

Jazz in the Courtyard
12 noon FPCC Courtyard

FRIDAY

78° 61°
HI LO

SATURDAY

74° 57°
HI LO

Football Game vs.
Southern University
6 p.m. at Mumford Stadium
Bobby Jones Gospel Taping
11 a.m. Cox-Lewis Theatre

Do you have an event coming up?
Add your event to
THE METER's
weekly calendar.
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Campus mourns slain employee

By Marshall A. Latimore
MANAGING EDITOR

TSU employee Nathaniel Adefope was found stabbed and beaten to death on Sept. 7 shortly before 2 p.m. at the Frank A. Young Poultry plant on the main campus, where he was a supervisor for 27 years.

Adefope, 60, was discovered by Samuel Nahashon, associate dean for agriculture sciences, in a storage building at the facility, located at 3510 West Heiman Street directly behind the New Residence Complex apartments.

"(Adefope's) body was discovered inside a storage building above the two hen/bird houses," said Kristin Mumford, spokesperson for Metro Nashville Davidson County Police department, which is investigating the murder.

Adefope, who had been employed by the university since 1982, was also an alumnus of the university, having obtained both his bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture, with concentrations in animal science.

The university community was notified of the incident in three consecutive text messages, dispatched by TSU Police. Messages were also put on the digital marquees at the north and south entrances of the campus.

While funeral details remain unclear for Adefope, campus officials have planned a memorial march for the, immediately following the university-wide Opening Convocation on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Donning academic regalia and lighting a candle in Adefope's memory, TSU President Melvin N. Johnson will lead his Cabinet, faculty, staff and students from the Kean Hall Gymnasium to the Laura M. Averitte Amphitheater at noon, where he will share some sentiments with the campus.

Following the incident, Johnson expressed his sorrow to Adefope's family in a phone call that evening.

The following morning, Sept. 9, he met with faculty and staff in the School of Agriculture and distributed a letter to faculty, staff and students Sept. 10.

"As I sit here trying to make sense of this heinous incident, I (am) saddened by the untimely death of this cheerful and gregarious individual," Johnson said in the letter. "Nathaniel was one of those individuals whom we loved, respected and cherished



PHOTOS BY JOHN CROSS/TSU MEDIA RELATIONS
Nathaniel Adefope Samuel Nahashon

because he first loved us, his TSU family."

Metro Nashville Police and the Nashville Medical Examiner's office disclosed Adefope's cause of death on the morning of Sept. 8.

Adefope had died from multiple stab wounds and blunt force trauma, the autopsy's results revealed.

However, a copy of the results were not made available to **THE METER** by the Medical Examiner's office at press time.

Mumford confirmed that a person of interest had been identified but still no suspects have been named. Additionally, potential murder weapons were still under investigation, she said.

On the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 11, eight years after the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, it seemed that all was back to normal at the poultry research farm that Adefope worked for 27 years.

Darren Wright, a research assistant who worked with Adefope for 17 years, monitored the chickens he and Adefope fed, cleaned and conducted experiments on.

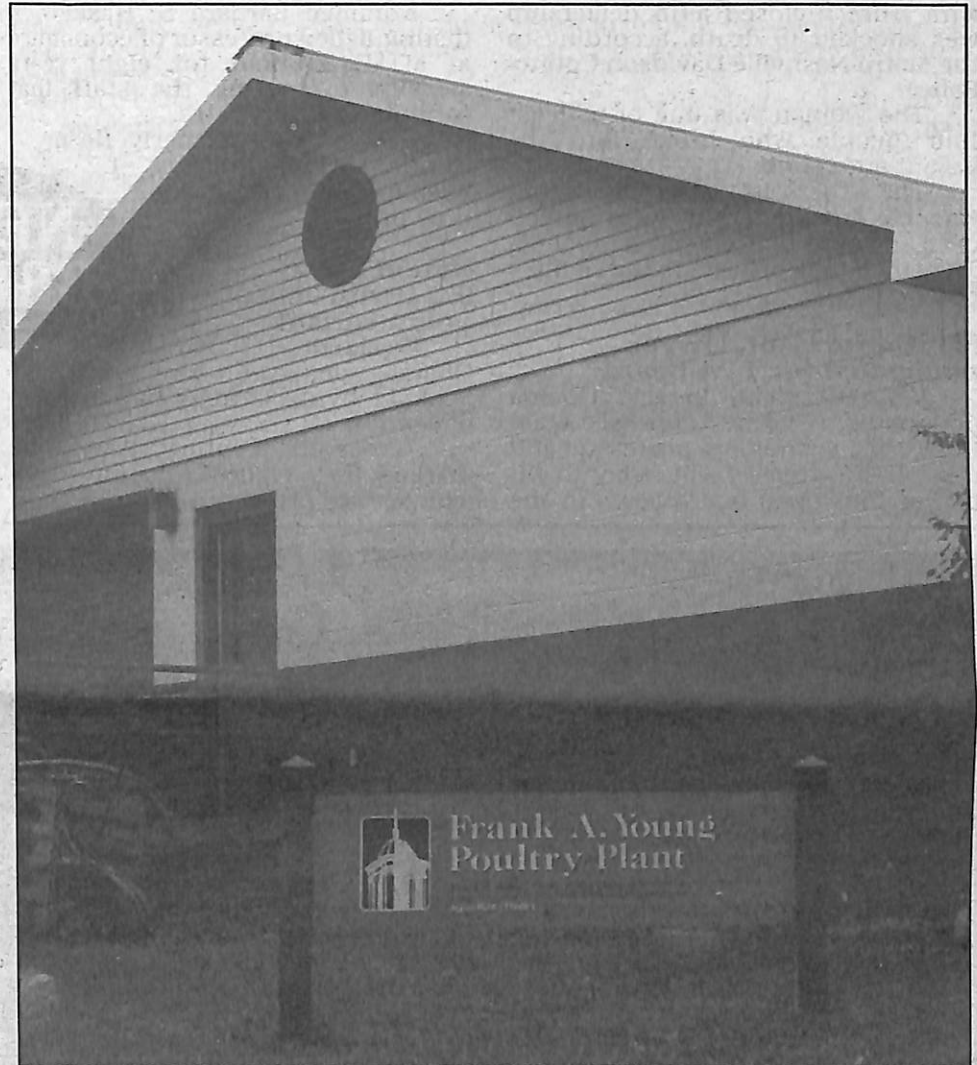
Wright's face wore an air of sadness as he gave a candid recount of the events he remembered from the day Adefope was murdered.

Wright was the second to see Adefope's body, after Nahashon called him to the building to contact TSU Police.

"I'd just seen him before I left for lunch," Wright said. "Then, to see him laying out like that--all the blood. It was like something you would see in a movie."

As more information becomes available, **THE METER** will post updates to tsumeter.com.

Adefope's body was found in a storage building (top) at the Frank A. Young Poultry Plant (right), which is comprised of three buildings--a chicken coop, boiler room and the storage building.



Nashville woman electrocuted in robbery attempt

A woman trying to steal copper wire from a closed auto dealership was shocked to death, according to the Metro Nashville Davidson County Police.

The woman was one of at least four people who broke into the vacant auto shop.

The others left after the victim was electrocuted, but were pulled over and told police what happened. They then took officers to the victim's body.

MTSU professor, lawyer nominated for TVA board

U.S. President Barack Obama nominated a Middle Tennessee State University economics professor and a legal aid attorney Thursday to fill two of four open board seats in the

Tennessee Valley Authority.

Nominee Barbara S. Haskew, a distinguished professor of economics at MTSU, worked for eight years at TVA overseeing the staff that formulates utility rates.

Haskew was formerly dean of the MTSU College of Business and was a one-time provost.

Nation marks 9/11 with acts of volunteerism

President Barack Obama, observed his first Sept. 11 by declaring a national day of service.

Across the country, Americans marked the eight-year anniversary with service projects.

Volunteers in Boston stuffed packages for military personnel overseas.

In Tennessee and West Virginia, donated food was distributed for the needy.

Also, on the lawn of the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio, volunteers arranged nearly 3,000 small American flags, in a pattern reminiscent of the trade center's twin towers. The top held an open space in the shape of a pentagon.

Great Britain apologizes for treatment of gay code-breaker
British Prime Minister Gordon

Brown has issued an apology for the "appalling" treatment of Alan Turing, the British code-breaker who was chemically castrated for being gay.

The apology came after more than 30,000 people signed an online petition on the United Kingdom Government Web site.

West Africa flooding affects 600,000, U.N. reports

Large amounts of rain and flooding since June have affected 600,000 people in 16 West African nations, the United Nations reported Sept. 8.

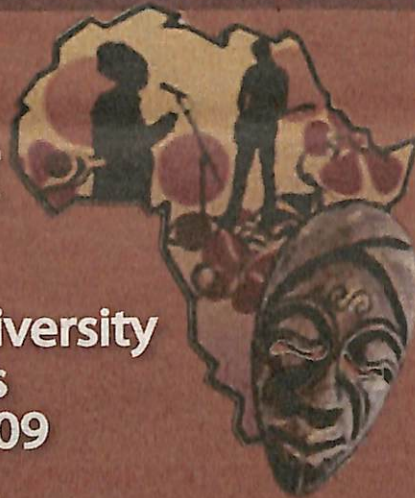
The U.N. World Food Programme said it has distributed food to thousands of citizens.

Compiled by LaToya Pickett



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Tennessee State University
Main Campus
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Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.



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TSU Police use preventive measures, crisis alerts

By Marshall A. Latimore
MANAGING EDITOR

When Zacquia McKinley got a knock at her apartment at TSU's New Residence Complex late afternoon Sept. 7, she did not know exactly what to expect.

When she found a TSU Police office standing at the door, the junior nursing major from Memphis, Tenn. said she was a little confused.

When the officer informed her of TSU employee Nathaniel Adefope's murder in the Frank A. Young Poultry Plant, less than 50 yards away from her residence, she began to feel uneasy.

"My initial reaction was shock," she said. "I didn't know anything about (Adefope's murder)."

McKinley said she appreciated the officer's visit to her doorstep, having had someone officially explain what happened and show concern for her safety on campus.

"I don't feel threatened (anymore)," McKinley said. "(But) I am definitely keeping an eye out."

TSU Police Chief Sylvia Russell was one of several officers who went door-to-door in the Ford Campus Apartments and NRC following the incident.

"The night of the incident, I went out and spoke with students letting them know what happened," Russell said. "We also activated our emergency notification service."

Russell further explained her department takes a proactive approach in assuring the safety of students on campus.

The emergency notification service included notifying the university community of the murder via text messages sent as well as messages that were put on the digital marquees at the north and south entrances of the main campus and Avon Williams Campus.

The text messages were distributed through the use of e2Campus, a web-based system that enables TSU Police and other administrators to send and manage time-sensitive messages to students, faculty, staff, campus security, first responders, volunteers, visitors, parents, alumni, media and others.

Utilizing the e2Campus interface, administrators can send messages to the mobile phones, home phones, office phones, email, and/or pagers, as well as third-party devices, including digital signage, PA systems, loudspeakers, desktop alerts and more.

In addition to these response

tools, the university also has a mass voice-mailing service that has the ability to contact all campus phones, including student handsets in residence halls.

An emergency update line, 615-963-5090—currently used for weather closings—can be utilized to update the campus for all emergencies.

Its message states, "You have called the TSU weather closing line. There are no closings to report at this time. For the most current information, please visit our Web site at tstate.edu."

However, individuals who had not subscribed to the e2Campus service did not receive the messages.

The last time a major push to get faculty, staff and students registered for the service was in April 2007, when e2Campus had been adopted following the Virginia Tech massacre, a school shooting at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va. in which the shooter Seung-Hui Cho, killed 32 people and wounded many others before committing suicide.

Two years later, Adefope's murder and another isolated incident at the Henry A. Boyd Residence fall 2008 have been the only times an emergency update has been needed, Russell said.

"Our campus is probably the safest in middle Tennessee," she said. "Our security force is very intense on campus."

TSU Police has a force of 32 police officers, seven security officers and five emergency dispatchers.

It also employs approximately 32 temporary security officers to patrol the campus 24 hours each day, provide security services, and monitor the extensive Pelco surveillance system, which was installed on campus in 1998, costing \$250,000. The surveillance system is manned 24 hours a day.

Russell said the department has made updates to the surveillance system, including cameras and monitors, over the years and currently has a grant in place to install even more cameras.

But even with all the technology in place, Russell said it is more important her officers develop relationships with students and faculty.

"We want to be preventive," Russell said. "We want our officers to talk with students. We want our campus to be open so people—faculty, staff and students—have the freedom to learn and live comfortably."

"We're going to take care of our campus," she continued. •

CLASSIFIED

TODAY, SEPT. 14

**Communications
Department
Fall 2009 Kick-Off**

Cox-Lewis Theatre - 3 p.m.

Faculty, Staff and Students invited.

*Come get involved and meet the
Communications Faculty & student orgs.*

Red Cross needs blood donors

By Ashleigh Taylor
NEWS EDITOR

The American Red Cross Nashville Area chapter has announced a blood shortage, including ethnic-specific blood from blacks, officials said.

The problem lies with disproportionately large number of individuals with rare blood types unique to that race, explained Jeanie Larkins, Red Cross donor recruitment manager.

"There is a reluctance to donate blood because of a lack of knowledge and common fear of needles," Larkins said. "We are pleading for everyone to give blood."

Every day, thousands of blacks suffer from life-threatening blood related situations that necessitate blood transfusions, Larkins said.

Statistically, a patient's most likely match is another family member.

However, more than 70 percent

of African Americans cannot find a blood type match within their own families.

Therefore, unrelated individuals willing to donate blood are needed, especially now that the blood supply from the African-American community has run low.

Larkins explained there is a low possibility that an African-American patient can match blood types with a donor from another racial group.

The most successful blood transfusions come from someone of the same ethnic, racial and genetic background as the patient, she said.

"If people knew 38 percent of the world are eligible to give blood, but only three to five percent donate, they would want to donate more," Larkins said. "There is no substitute for human blood (and) when it is gone it is gone."

Contact the Red Cross Metropolitan Nashville Headquarters by calling (615) 250-4300 or e-mail info@nashvilleredcross.org. •

What We Think Tragic TSU loss saddens staff

Tuesday Sept. 8th a veteran staff member and alumni of TSU, Nathaniel Adefope, was brutally murdered and discovered in a storage building at the Frank A. Young Poultry Plant located behind the New Residence Complex.

Investigations are currently underway but the Medical Examiner and Metro Nashville Police Department have ruled his death a homicide and to date have no leads in the case.

Adefope, 60, was stabbed numerous times and hit in the head with blunt force trauma.

THE METER is extremely saddened by this unfortunate loss and our thoughts and prayers go out to the Adefope family.

To senselessly murder

someone in this manner and of this age is truly unthinkable.

Moments after the discovery of his body **THE METER** office was in a state of shock while still trying to get as many answers as we possibly could.

Now, days later, with the motive still unknown and so many questions still unanswered, the TSU community remains in that state of shock and bewilderment.

Was this an "inside" job? Who was present in the hours before the crime was committed? Is the TSU campus community truly safe? Was the murderer a

student, staffer, or Nashville resident?

We hope that within the coming weeks both TSU and the Metro Nashville Police Department work diligently to solve this heinous crime before the trail goes cold and bring peace of mind to Adefope's family, friends and the TSU community.

While many students outside of the School of Agricultural Sciences may not have known Adefope personally, his dedication to the university is both commendable and appreciated.

While TSU's community

is expansive, there is still that undeniable feeling of "closeness" for everyone touched by this institution of higher learning. When any member within our community is lost, we all feel the pain.

A memorial march for Adefope has been scheduled to occur immediately following the Opening Convocation tomorrow morning.

We hope that all of the TSU community will come to show support, mourn the loss and remember the life of Adefope.

THE METER will continue to report on this shocking and horrid murder story as more details become available. Also visit tsumeter.com for the latest breaking news. •

*When
(anyone)
is lost,
we all
feel the
pain.*



**Miji
Pearse**
STAFF
COLUMNIST

GIRL TALK

It seems as though sex is such an untouched subject when it comes to women.

Nearly everyone is doing it, but no one is candid enough to speak about the risks and routinely harmful habits that we ladies have in relation to the topic.

As a freshman in 2005, I was so naïve and green with inexperience. I came to TSU with a boyfriend and he was my world, so when it came to sex—particularly my habits and mis-education about sex—I was at the bottom of the totem pole.

I can only imagine, many other ladies have high school sweethearts who they feel secure and content with.

Let me be one of the first to tell you:

Beware of promiscuity

keep your guards up.

I believe that the safest sex, other than abstinence, is when both parties are monogamous; but far too often we women allow our false sense of security and reality to potentially kill us.

I also have been guilty of this poor reasoning. So many times I and my ex-boyfriend had unprotected sex. I was completely oblivious to the prominence of sexually transmitted diseases among our gender, race and age group.

Ladies, we are the fastest growing new cases for HIV.

Even when we have boyfriends, we should not trick ourselves into believing we are immune to diseases and other misfortunes.

When every other girl gives her body away and one girl does not, she separates herself from the crowd.

She has also protected herself from any ailment or illness that can potentially

arise from intercourse.

When women subject themselves to promiscuity, their sense of self and self-worth is seriously compromised.

Though this is extremely common amongst women at TSU, we must realize that this is completely unacceptable and not cute.

I am sure plenty of ladies across campus are thinking, "whatever, it won't happen to me." Well, it can and will definitely if you are not careful. Please get tested and know you and your partner's status.

Fortunately, I have never contracted a STD, but did have a pregnancy that resulted in abortion. Everyone is not so lucky.

There is no telling what that high school sweetheart or college boo of yours is doing while you are attending classes. So wrap it up. •

THE METER

The Measure of Student
Opinion and Sentiment

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Meter's mission is to accurately and responsibly report the "highlights and lowlights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive 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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Obama unjustly scrutinized



Danielle Berkley
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

FROM WHERE I SIT

Saturday, Sept. 12, thousands marched to the U.S. Capitol to protest President Barack Obama's proposed health care plan.

According to the Associated Press, the line of conservative protesters spread far and wide, coming from all regions of the United States with signs that read, "Obamacare makes me sick," "Go Green Recycle Congress" and "You can't fix stupid but you can vote it out."

Protesters went as far as smearing cow feces on a picture of Obama and even defaced a picture of him with a Hitler mustache.

Their actions, are all because he has a plan to not hinder, hurt or "misuse" government funds but to help the American people, the underrepresented and the uninsured. Those against Obama's health care plan are shooting it down without providing any alternative solutions.

With Obama being the first

black president of the United States, every action, hand shake mistaken for a bow, beer summit, education speech, and proposed plan or law are all going to be carefully analyzed, criticized and magnified.

The media as well as many Americans still do not know how to act or react under the leadership of a black president; hence, the harsh visuals, and not-so-hidden racism, seen Saturday in Washington.

Nonetheless, how Obama handles every criticism demonstrates his extraordinary character and poise. He stands strong by his actions and beliefs and 99.9 percent of those are just.

As African-American students at an historically black university, we should learn from and emulate those great qualities that President Obama as well as First Lady Michelle Obama possess.

When we get into the "real world" we should also strive to be "the first" and in that role exceed all expectations by stepping up and standing out on our beliefs.

Any good cause doesn't come without opposition.

Obama maybe making a stir politically with his "Obamacare" but he wholeheartedly believes in his plan and believes now is the time.

In his health care speech



COURTESY OF HUFFINGTONPOST.COM

Protesters gather outside the U.S. Capitol opposing Obama's healthcare plan.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, Obama dispelled all myths and rumors about his proposed plans and clearly and emotionally stated the truths.

Obama said "The time for bickering is over, the time for games has past, now is the season for action.

Now is when we must bring the best ideas of both parties together

and show the people that we can still do what we were sent here to do."

Next week **THE METER** will focus on exactly what Obama's health care plan entails, what he's proposing and how it will affect us.

THE METER will also feature a debate from students on both sides of the agenda. •

Elections reveal need for mentorship



Maya Matthews
GUEST COLUMNIST

The recent freshmen debates and forum proved to be a painful reminder that this is the freshman class's first time in a college setting.

The lack of "know how" as to how to properly present and represent your class was clearly brought to light by casual dress, poor speech and disappointing turn out.

None of the candidates running for freshman representative were present at the debate, and the one

candidate running for secretary did not arrive in time to debate.

She later spoke with me and admitted that it is not acceptable to miss a key opportunity to promote herself for something that she claims she is interested in.

She gave no excuses, but an apology for wasting the time of those there to witness the debates.

While those who did make the effort to join the debate did well to impress their ambitions and qualifications upon the audience, there was a general lack of education on the positions they were

intending to fill as well as Freshman Delegation as a whole.

Upperclass students need to mentor the future leaders of this institution.

I was dissatisfied by those who have chosen to run for freshman positions and members of the freshman class felt the same way.

One freshman told me she was disappointed in the overall performance of her peers and she understands why each student is required to take public speaking.

Another freshman said she was not impressed by any of the nominees for Miss Freshman.

Passing off and poorly answering

questions took its toll on many candidates that were ill-equipped to handle the pressing questions hurdled by several key upperclassmen, including Charity Ward, Patrick Calvin and Charles Cannon.

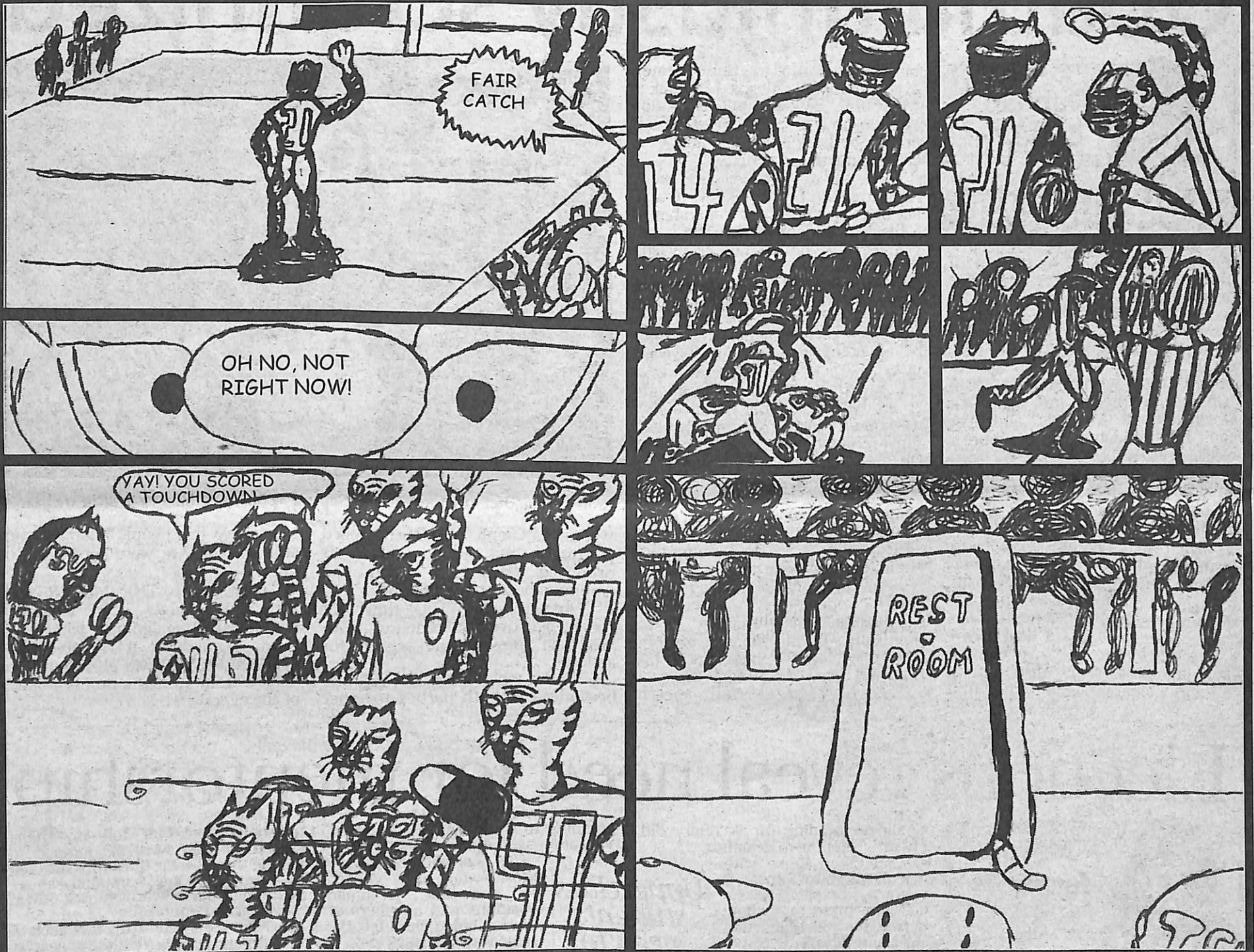
This merely confirms that each of the upperclassmen of this university need to quickly grab a freshman and mentor the future leaders of this institution.

It was not all gloom and doom for the freshman class of 2013. There is a ray of hope in the President and Vice-President candidates.

Campaigning for all freshman candidates is still underway. With freshman scheduled to vote Sept. 14-15, it is my hope they campaign better than they speak. •

TIGREVILLE

BY ORTERRIUS BURNETT



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**Shannon
Cohen**
BUSINESS &
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR**MONEY BYTES****BEWARE OF NEWS
MEDIA BIASES**

The news media has been one of the biggest influences on a person's life. However, this has not always been an advantage. Many outlets persuade their audiences much more than simply informing them. For example, cable network Fox News overtly promotes conservative principles.

During the presidential race of 2008, any candidate that did not embody these conservative principles was significantly criticized by Fox News personalities. Viewers of the network were then left believing that candidates who did not uphold conservative standards were not fit for presidency.

Other media outlets, like the left-leaning MSNBC, have done the same when discussing controversial issues such as healthcare and war. Television and radio networks have swayed their audiences one way or another.

Very few networks have put their beliefs aside and solely informed their audiences. However, it has been at the discretion of the audience to differentiate between persuasive networks.

Controversial issues should be best decided by one's personal experiences, beliefs and culture. No one should be able to affect one's thinking.

Gay marriage has been one of the most controversial topics debated. Some people have not encouraged it because of tradition, religious beliefs and the image it will give their state if allowed.

On the other hand, some people have encouraged it for the same reasons: they believed everyone should be treated equal despite sexual orientation.

People need to reclaim their beliefs, and research such controversial topics before choosing a side. •

Employees take TBR buyout**By Shannon Cohen**
BUSINESS &
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Government budget cuts in educational spending have caused Tennessee Board of Regent schools to cut spending and offer voluntary buyouts.

During these tough economic times, apparently no one is immune to the consequences.

TBR's Voluntary Buyout Program (VBP) was established to address the budget constraints caused by a decrease in state appropriations and to prepare for any additional cuts.

TSU offered 100 buyouts to faculty, administrators and staff. Only 58 people took advantage of the program and only 47 applications were approved. The submission deadline was June 30 and all 47 positions have already been severed.

Anyone employed at the university regularly for the past 12 months, and not placed in an excluded job function was eligible

to enroll.

Those who took advantage of the program would also end their employment with the university.

The severance package plans to pay qualifying faculty, administrators and staff up to three times their monthly rate of pay and \$500 for each full or partial year employed at the university. Six months of health insurance premiums, a TSU Wellness Center membership and tuition assistance up to \$5,400 per year for two years were also included in the package.

Some units, like Cabinet positions and the division of University Relations and Development were ineligible to take the buyout. Those employed in grant-funded positions or under contracts were not eligible for the VBP plan either.

Jytosna Paruchuri, a political science professor believes there were only 58 applicants for the program due to insufficient time to understand the specifics of the plan.

Paruchuri admitted to actually considering taking up the offer after

teaching for 41 years, but her lack of knowledge about the program and passion for the job forced her to stay.

"I love my job," Paruchuri said. "I love to teach and I was so busy with school I didn't have enough time to read the details of the plan."

Since only 47 of the 100 positions targeted were accepted, there will possibly be 53 more position cuts.

Some students, like Dena Donald are disappointed with the program for personal reasons.

"I hope that none of my favorite teachers accept the buyout plan," said Donald, a sophomore political science major from Chicago.

Others are excited about the VBP plan and look forward to the changes.

"I'm all for (the buyout plan)," said Kimberly Chester, a senior history major from Las Vegas. "Maybe employees who hate their job and are just working to receive a paycheck will take the offer, and we can have more genuine professors." •

Church's Chicken expands to middle Tennessee

Despite the declining economy, Church's Chicken, the Atlanta-based business has announced plans to takeover 23 Mrs. Winner's Chicken and Biscuit locations in middle Tennessee.

According to Moody's Investors Service, fast food restaurants were among the few businesses that have survived the recession.

Church's officials said they believe this takeover will result in better sales when the recession ends.

The chain's chief operating officer explained that although the company is not recession proof, it does well in "ethnic and low-income" areas.

Six of the 23 locations have already been converted, including one in the Jefferson Street corridor.

Hard Rock Café lends staff to charities

Hard Rock Café has temporarily shut down, but its staffers don't have to worry about being unemployed, as they will still be working in local communities.

On Sept. 14, Hard Rock Cafe in Nashville has been scheduled to close for three months for renovations.

However, employees will be paid their regular salaries plus their average tip during the closure.

As many as 71 employees have been redirected to local community service jobs, including preparing meals for needy families and stocking racks at local thrift stores.

The staff will contribute more than 2,000 hours per week at local

nonprofit organizations chosen by Hard Rock and Hands on Nashville.

Poverty rates doubles for seniors

Increasing medical and living costs have doubled poverty rates among senior citizens.

According to the National Academy's of Science's formula, Americans 65+ will face an 18.6 percent poverty rate while the remaining population will face only 9.7.

If the formula is adopted by government officials, this could affect the way federal money is distributed to the poor for health, housing, nutrition and childcare benefits.

**Compiled by
Shannon Cohen**

SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

By Shannon Cohen
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

As personal computers soar in sales, mini laptops are becoming increasingly popular among consumers.

According to Interactive Data Corp., a technology research company, shipments of portable computers have significantly increased during the first quarter of the year. IDC has also predicted that sales are expected to reach 22 million by the end of the year.

These compact PCs fit virtually anywhere and take up a lot less space than the average 17-inch laptop. The PCs also are lighter, making them less of a hassle to carry.

Although many of the specifications may seem similar, each notebook contains many interesting features including the unique style and price.

Below is a consumer guide of **THE METER's** top five choices for mini-notebook computers:

Acer Aspire One D150 \$329.99

This portable PC contains a 9-inch screen, integrated camera, 18 bit color support, 160 GB hard drive, wireless capabilities and a built in microphone.

The 2.9-pound mini also comes with 6.5 hours of battery life, Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition and a one-year warranty.

Dell Inspiron Mini 9 \$174.99

The Dell Inspiron Mini 9 contains Bluetooth 2.0, 1024 MB of RAM, wireless cellular modem, a battery life of four to six hours and Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition. This small computer only weighs 2.29 pounds.

Asus Eee PC 1000H \$499.99

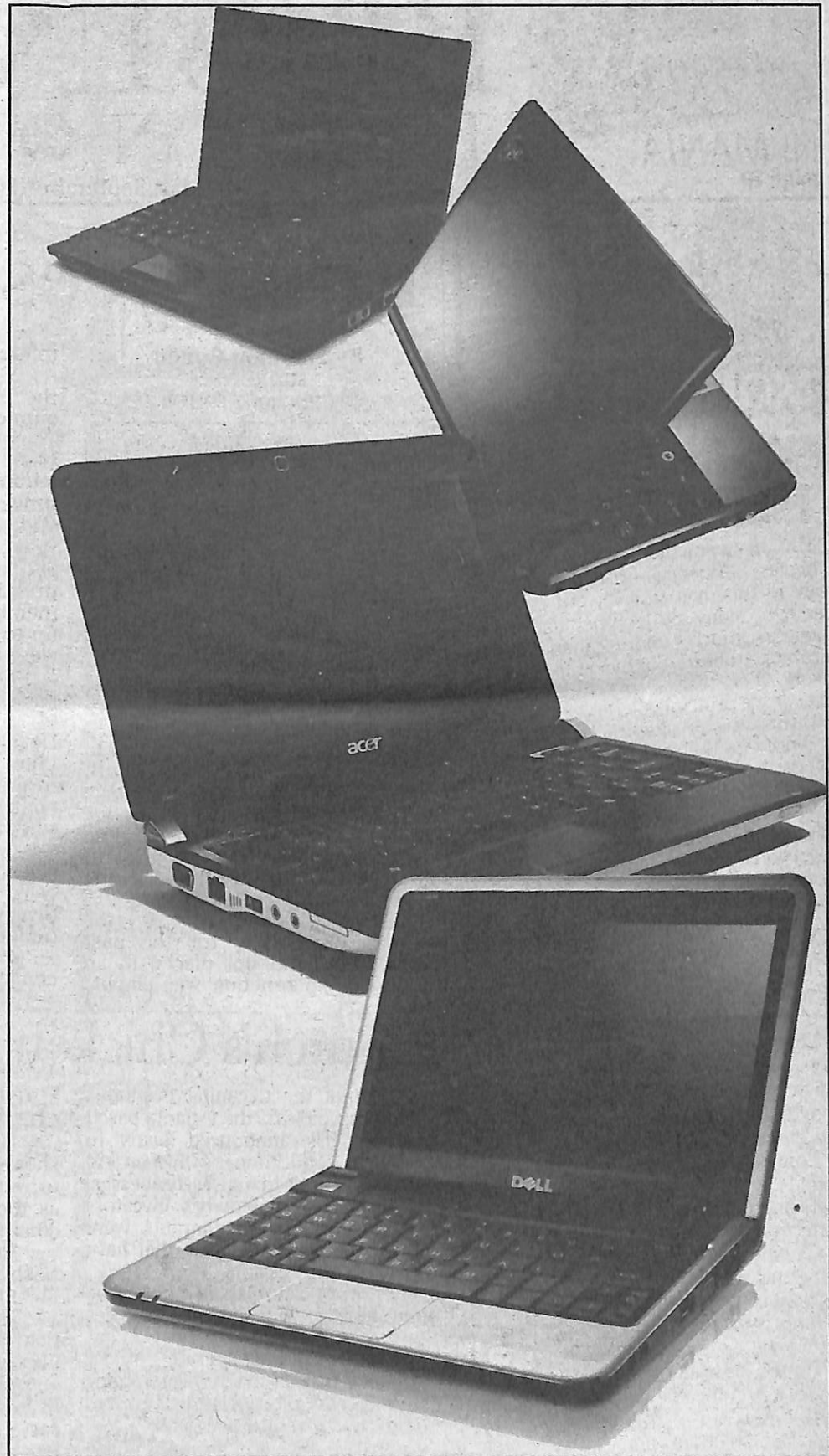
This mini-laptop contains an 80 GB hard drive, built in camera and microphone, Bluetooth, 7.5 hours of battery life, Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition, high-definition audio and weighs only 3.2 pounds.

HP Mini 5101 \$425.00

The HP Mini 5101 contains a Windows Vista Home Basic operating system, high-definition audio support, integrated stereo speakers and microphone, one-year warranty and an Intel Atom processor. It also contains up to 2 GB of memory, 4.5 hours of battery life and weighs 2.64 lbs.

Sony Vaio W111XX \$499.99

This 2.6 lb mini PC contains a built in Bluetooth antenna, Intel Atom N280 processor, 1 GB of RAM, 160 GB hard drive, high-definition audio, integrated microphone and camera. The maximum battery life is three hours and the system comes with a one-year warranty, 24-hour technical support and Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition. •



Mini laptops, like (from top to bottom) the HP Mini 5101, Asus Eee PC 1000H, Acer Aspire One D150 and Dell Inspiron Mini 9 become all the rage this fall.

ARTS CULTURE

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'LOVE'
LETOYA
See page 12



**Nakeva
Williams**
ARTS &
CULTURE EDITOR

KEEPING IT REAL

STOP HATING ON OUR PRESIDENT

President Obama gave a speech Tuesday that was channeled into classrooms worldwide encouraging students nationwide to stay in school and work hard. That sounds like a beneficial and positive message, right? Not everyone thinks so.

Many conservative parents became uptight and outraged, because they felt the president was trying to indoctrinate their children with socialist ideas. Since when did telling a child that education is important become Socialist?

President Obama has felt the brunt of many criticism since he made his way to the White House, but this is by far the most bizarre.

Obama's the President of the United States, and that makes him the most qualified person to encourage anyone about education.

He has taken the time out of his hectic schedule to stop and talk to those who matter most, the future leaders and workers of this country. Despite all that, people have the nerve to get upset.

No child left behind. Yeah right! Maybe the thought of having a black man inform their children that an education can take them to places beyond what they could ever imagine refutes what they believe about us as a race.

Kudos to President Obama for not only stepping outside the box, and putting children first in a way that is not only relatable but radical.

Some parents went as far as complaining to principals, and even keeping their children at home. This country will never grow if we do not accept change.

Obama is a well-educated black man who happened to earn, not win, the most upright title in this country. Now get over it!•

Artist shares unique collection

By Jaida McKie & Tatiana Todd
STAFF REPORTER &
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

New media artist Timothy Portlock shared his digital art collection with TSU students on Thursday, Sept. 10 at the Avon Williams campus.

Portlock discussed his latest series of work titled *Ghost Cities*.

TSU's art department hosted the event to showcase the Chicago native's work, some of which is on display in the Hiram Van Gordon Memorial Gallery on TSU's main campus.

In the 45-minute discussion, Portlock explained his love of art and how his collection focused on constructing digital images based on his realistic surroundings, the abandoned buildings of Philadelphia.

Portlock also discussed his methods for creating the wall-sized images, formed using 3D tools, Adobe Photoshop and gaming software.

"I wanted to make the images look somewhat realistic," Portlock said. "But I did not want the images to look like something you could do with your camera."

"Just because I work on a computer to create art does not mean I don't have an intimate relationship with my art," he continued.

During a trip to Egypt, Portlock said he found it "strange" that Gaza citizens would go about their daily lives surrounded by great structures, which may not look great to others.

Portlock said because many popular urban spaces have decayed from the effects of industrialization, his collection serves as a way to acknowledge the problem.

"Focusing on abandoned buildings (addresses) the issue even further," he said.

The talk served as inspiration for many students attending the event.

"I think the fact that he combines actual portraits and makes them digital to create artwork many people have never seen is quite amazing," said Elise Kendrick, a junior art major from Gahanna, Ohio native.•



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TIMPORTLOCK.NET

New media artist discussed his methods for creating his art work, comprised of digital images (top), which are on display in the Hiram Van Gordon Memorial Gallery on campus (above).

Luckett channels 'love' on new LP

LeToya
Lady Love
Grade: B-

LeToya Luckett dished a second helping of her vocal aptitude, this time in the form of *Lady Love*—her ode to love present and past.

Over slick production and thoughtfully penned lyrics, the songbird spreads her vocal wings and invites listeners to experience true growth through vocal abilities and life's trials.

Though themes of regret, drain and heartbreak find themselves expressed over and over in many of the album's 14 tracks, LeToya clearly demonstrates a newfound confidence and a willingness to experiment with sounds.

The result is almost completely unlike the sound presented on her self-titled 2006 debut.

An unlikely star of *Lady Love* is Luckett's strength as a vocalist. Over the Prince-esque *Good To Me*, Luckett lets her love of love itself lead and belts out a heartfelt plea for the man of her dreams to accept all the love she has to offer.

Likewise, on *Over* she sings



with conviction and resolve, effortlessly warning of the perils a mate faces by toying with her heart.

She also switches things up on the whispy title track and the uber-sexy *I Need a U*, on which the Houston siren purrs over synth chords and climaxes into a full-on duet with an electric guitar.

Coupled with the expert songwriting talents of hitmakers Ne-Yo, Marsha Ambrosius of the duo Floetry and Bryan Michael

Cox, Luckett's soulful soprano rips through masterfully crafted tracks, including the high-energy second single *She Ain't Got Sh*t On Me* and the Ryan Leslie-produced *Take Away Love*, which features London transplant Estelle.

Lady Love's strongest tracks feature LeToya doing what she does best—laying down the law as only she knows how.

Lazy and *Afterparty* find the songstress letting go of love to focus on self and celebrating the freedom gained from finally letting go respectively.

The radio friendly *Love Rollercoaster* and *Tears* provide fans with songs they'll certainly want to add to playlists.

Though the album is certainly a solid offering for a sophomore effort, it does have its shortcomings.

After a while the monotony of filler songs—*Don't Need You*, *Don't Let Me Get Away* and *Somebody Else* take their toll on the overall flow of the album. Fortunately, these lull-inducing songs come at the end of the record.

Marshall A. Latimore

Gospel legend to celebrate birthday on TSU campus

Ambassador Bobby Jones, TSU graduate and international gospel legend, has scheduled to host a special birthday celebration taping of his acclaimed cable television show in the Cox-Lewis Theater Sept. 19-20.

The event, titled *A Birthday Celebration with Gospel Music Icon, Ambassador Bobby Jones and Friends*, will air in 120 countries around the world. Scheduled guests include The Nashville Super Choir, Tye Tribbett, New Direction Choir and Angela Spivey.

"For (Jones) to include TSU in his birthday celebration is an exciting opportunity to show support for and bring awareness to one of our own," said Gorla Cunningham, events manager for the university.

TSU students have been invited to attend one of three tapings—Sept. 19 (1-4 p.m. and 6-10 p.m.) and Sept. 20 (5-9 p.m.). Students wanting to be part of the audience will receive a TSU t-shirt and a photo opportunity with Dr. Bobby Jones.

Interested students should RSVP by sending an e-mail to bobbyjonescelebration@gmail.com. A confirmation e-mail will be sent notifying the student where to pick up their ticket for the show.

Marshall A. Latimore

Reality star delivers new memoir

Never Make the Same Mistake Twice: Lessons on Love and Life Learned the Hard Way
Nene Leakes
Grade: B+

Real Housewives of Atlanta star Nene Leakes who is known for her uncut, no-chaser attitude is at it once again, this time, in written form.

Outrageous, enchanting and unafraid to tell it like it is, Leakes shares her wild voyage from a scandalous past to the summit of reality television stardom in her new book *Never Make the Same Mistake Twice: Lessons on Love and Life Learned the Hard Way*.

Leakes always knew she would be a star and in her new tell-all book, she offers fans a captivating dive into her life, past, present and future.

Leakes is adored by her fans for her refreshing honesty, witty sense of humor and down-to-earth personality.

In the pages of her book, she reveals that she is also a courageous, empowered woman who, despite the fame, has not forgotten the Athens, Ga. roots from whence she came.

In her straight-talking and sassy memoir, Leakes recounts her life's journey, including the struggles of being a young single black mother and the decisions that were made to help support her and her oldest son.

With her charisma and boldness, she discusses the past relationship with a violent boyfriend and her path to real love. Leakes also dishes out information on her cast mates and other *Housewife* series characters.

The book is everything you would expect from this sophisticated, yet no-nonsense housewife.

From drama to triumph, Nene Leakes has overcome it all and is not afraid to share.

Nakeva Williams



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www.tnstate.edu/careers

TSU survives classic catfight

By Itoro Umontuen
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After a poor effort against Alabama A&M University in the John Merritt Classic Sept. 5, TSU earned a hard fought 14-7 victory against Jackson State University in front of 43,306 spectators.

Sophomore quarterback Calvin McNairl from Paris, Tenn., started the game for injured Dominic Grooms. However, TSU's defense scored first for the second straight week. John Jones Jr., junior linebacker from Sarasota, Fla., tackled JSU quarterback Michael Mosley in the endzone for a safety, giving the Tigers a 2-0 lead with 11:38 to go in the first quarter.

"They have a tough football team over there," TSU Head Coach James Webster said. "However, we have a tough football team and I am proud of my guys."

After both defenses showed their dominance for the majority of the first half, the TSU offense put together an impressive drive.

McNairl scored on a 6-yard run to give TSU an 8-0 lead going into halftime. TSU's offense struggled in the first half, only gaining three first downs, and 70 yards of total offense.

After a scoreless third quarter, McNairl led the Tigers in an impressive 5-play, 80-yard drive, which shaved 2:30 off the clock.

TSU's drive was capped off by senior running back Preston Brown from Nashville, who scored from six yards out, giving the Tigers a

14-0 lead. The key play on the drive was a 54 yard run by McNairl.

"Calvin was hurt in last week's game," Webster said. "We're so proud of him. He makes plays with his arm and his legs."

JSU responded with an 8-play, 65-yard touchdown scoring drive to reduce TSU's lead to 14-7.

After TSU's offense faltered on their next offensive series, JSU frantically attempted a drive down field for a game-tying touchdown.

JSU was aided by a 37-yard completion by Mosley and a TSU penalty for pass interference on TSU's 8-yard line with just 11 seconds left. With time winding down, JSU was forced to try for the equalizer through the air.

On first and second down, TSU's defense held strong forcing two incomplete passes which took the game clock down to 4 seconds.

With one final chance left in regulation, Mosley dropped back and threw the ball into the endzone—only the hands the ball fell into wasn't that of one of his teammates.

TSU redshirt freshman cornerback Justin Bather from Laverne, Tenn., intercepted the Mosley's pass, sealing TSU's ninth consecutive SHC victory.

"This was a game I definitely did not want to lose, said TSU head coach James Webster. "Jackson State has a really great team and I have to give credit to their coach, Rick Comegy.

"It was a tough battle out there and all I can do is thank God," Webster said.



TSU's Joseph Wylie brings down JSU quarterback Michael Mosley in the Southern Heritage Classic. PHOTO BY ITORO UMONTUEN/THE METER



COURTESY OF TSU ATHLETICS

Lady Tiger Shaquita Williams, jumps to send the ball over the net.

Tigers lose to Mocs

By Jessica Moseley
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Tigers volleyball team fell short in their home opener against University of Tennessee-Chattanooga losing 3-1 Tuesday, Sept. 8 in Kean's Little Garden.

The Tigers dropped their fifth straight match bringing their record to 1-6. TSU tailed with 48 kills and 62 digs while Chattanooga registered 45 kills and 63 digs.

The Tigers built up a 15-10 lead in the first set, but UTC took a 9-0 run which lead them to winning the set, 27-25. Both teams struggled evenly in the second set, Chattanooga committed eight errors and hit an average of .026. TSU committed 14 miscues and turned a -.111, leading to a loss of 22-25.

Following half time, the Tigers with determination in their eyes fought hard with a 14-7 lead in the third set. Chattanooga's attack error made the score 20-14. The Tigers went on to win the third set 25-17.

In the fourth set, TSU trailed Chattanooga 8-7 as the Lady Mocs took over the set with 13-7. They continued to score claiming eight more points making the score 21-13. Chattanooga would continue on to win the set and claim the victory over TSU.

Sophomore Terakka Walker made the game a double-double with a set high of 13 kills and 12 digs. Sophomore Shaquita Williams added 10 kills while freshman Calasia Williams and senior Kamille King also contributed double digits in digs for the Lady Tigers. Senior Yamari Padilla-Collazo dished out 35 set assists in the entire game.

The Tigers take the road to play in their final tournament of the season at Western Kentucky University. The Tigers face the host WKU Friday afternoon and Northern Illinois on Friday evening following taking on Memphis Saturday.

The next home game for the Tigers is Friday, Oct. 2 in Kean's Little Garden at 7 p.m. Follow the Tigers' season online at www.tsutigers.com

Golf season begins on the road

By Jessica Moseley
SPORTS EDITOR

TSU golf head coach Charles "Chip" Taylor said he expects a winning season for the Tigers.

The Tigers have been scheduled to travel to the Alabama State University Fall Classic at the Lagoon Park Golf Course in Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 13-15.

This is Taylor's third year at the helm of a Tigers' golf program that has consistently found itself overshadowed by other sports at the university.

A few good finishes this year should go a long way to help change that situation.

This task should be slightly easier this year as Taylor who have the benefit of fielding a team that has a very similar look to the one from last season.

"I have all five of my players returning from last year and one freshman," Taylor said.

It is too bad that Taylor, a former golfer for Austin Peay University, is not eligible to get back out on the links with the rest of his Tigers who he feels are making progress.

"They've gotten better each year," he said. "We could never put three or four solid rounds together for one tournament. We finished sixth in the OVC Tournament and that was TSU's best finish in five or six years. I really like the way they played."

This sentiment is one that is not held by only him.

"You can expect a better team from last years," said Marie Black, a sophomore art major and member of the golf team from Indianapolis. "We've made improvements and I feel like this season will definitely go smoother than the last."

This season marks the fourth season for Chris Seibel, a senior human performance and sports science major from Indianapolis, and he sees a positive outcome for the upcoming season.

"I was born with a club in my hand," Seibel said. "I want to win, it will be a true test this year because this is the strongest we've looked in years."

This seems to be in part to the work and effort put in by the team in preparation for this season.

Between the practice sessions everyday that often times last

until the sun has set, the players find themselves out on the links playing as many rounds of golf as possible and working on their short game and hitting balls at a driving range.

Taylor even also offers one-on-one help to any player when needed; a tall task as he has remained without an assistant coach during his tenure here.

Despite the absence of an



TSU ATHLETICS

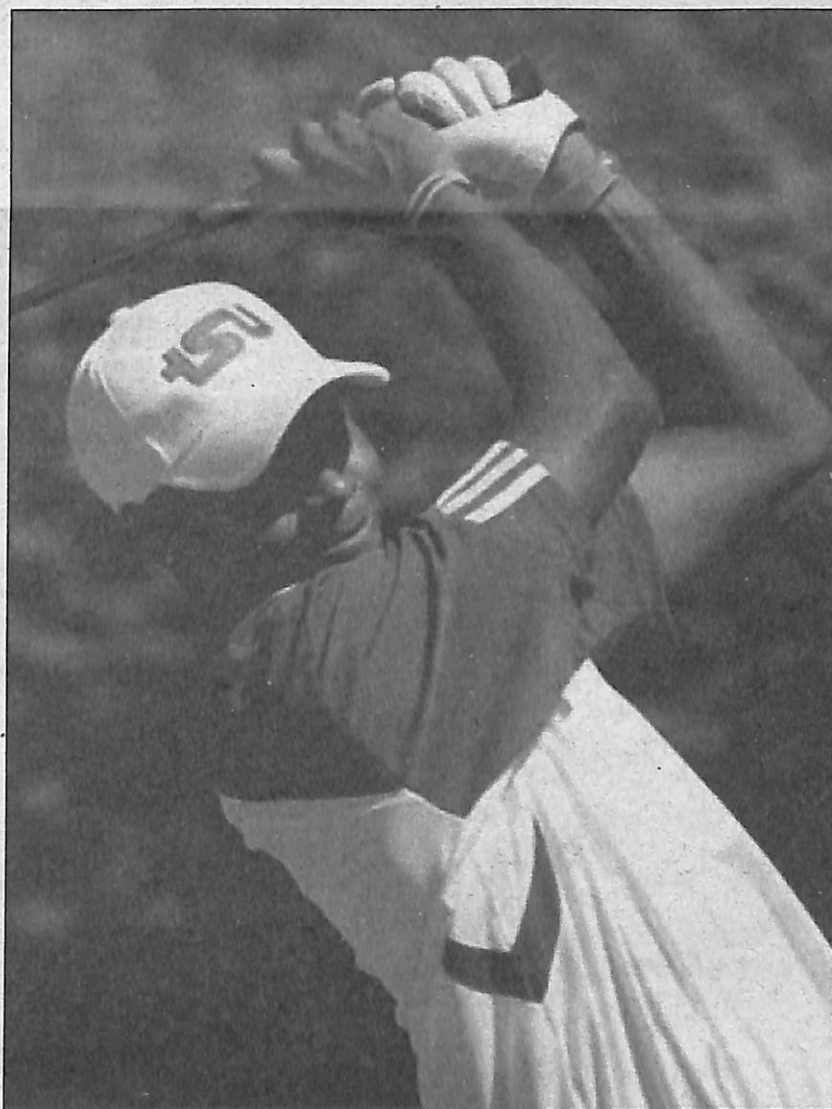
Charles
Taylor

assistant coach, Taylor has been able to meet that challenge.

Taylor's leadership has helped the Tigers become a team that finished up last season with a win at the 23rd PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championships in St. Lucia, Fla.

The Lady Tigers' golf team will look to match their male counterparts' progression and success this year especially with Jamie Pierce and Marie Black.

"I am expecting a lot from Jamie Pierce and Marie Black," Taylor said. "The women are getting a lot better and I am looking forward to see what they have to offer this season."*



COURTESY OF TSU ATHLETICS

Dorian Vauls returns as a member of TSU's Tiger golf team.

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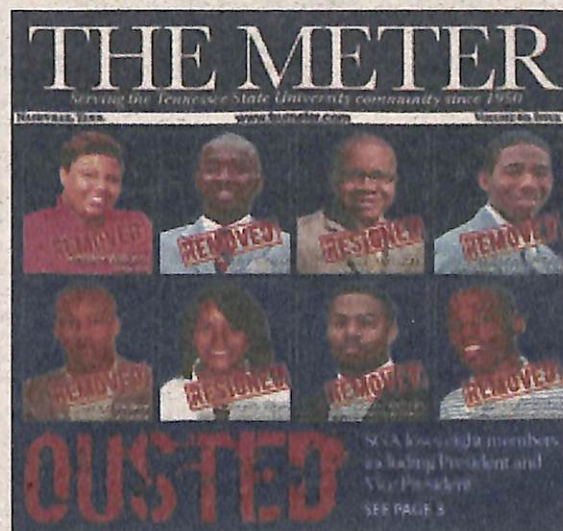
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