

Monday, March 30, 2009

THE METER

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VOLUME 59, ISSUE 17

twitter



to twit or not to twit

Students are slowly catching on to this new Web phenomenon.
Story on page 3

Deltas host comedy, variety show

By Jessica Moseley
Assistant Sports Editor

Thursday, March 26 marked the fifth day, "AXT III: Straight Clownin'," in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.'s annual week.

Among Thursday's activities "In Delta Color," a talent showcase featuring a variety of singers and dancers, were the evening's festivities in the T.E. Poag Auditorium.

Paying a dollar admission or bringing a gently used pair of shoes for Soles for Souls Inc. was the price to enjoy some of TSU's finest entertainers.

The show opened at 6:45 as the Alpha Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated opened the show with a "Fly Girl" routine to the theme song of the 1990's hit sketch comedy show, *In Living Color*.

The host and hostess of the show, Jamal Johnson and Ebony Burrell, demonstrated great chemistry and stage presence.

Although the frequent city role calls, puns, and jokes seemed to be a bit much, the audience members seemed to enjoy it.

LaTeefa singing an acapella, "I Shoulda Cheated," was the first singer and act to hit the stage.

Hypnotized Dance Troupe was second, dancing to an array of songs from Michael and Janet Jackson to Keri Hilson.

A gospel selection followed, performed by Charleena Hamilton.

The audience was not ready for Tara Strong, as she started by singing "Why Don't We Fall in Love," Amerie's chart topping hit. Complete with background singers, Strong graced the tired TSU crowd with not one but three selections.

Bringing the crowd back to full attention was dancer Brittney Thomas, who performed the entire dance to Beyonce's *Single Ladies*.

Receiving a well-deserved standing ovation, Thomas was well liked by the tough TSU crowd.

"It was a good crowd," said Burrell, a business information systems major from Chicago. "I was nervous cause it was my first time hosting."

Dance group Music City Soul breakdanced their way into TSU hearts right before a Greek "stroll" call.

Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta were in the house, but members of other Greek organizations were scarce.

Phi Beta Sigma, Iota Phi Theta, and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternities were among the fraternities represented.

Also, men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. made a scene and gave the crowd a sneak peak of the Spring 2009 line.

Fully dressed in masks and camouflage the new initiates of Alpha Phi Alpha gave a preview of what was to occur during Alpha Week, scheduled March 29-April 4.

The show was rounded out by Jesse Wilson performing a rendition of John Legend's *Everybody Knows*, the Chattown Boys and their crew dancing to a master mix of music, and the Masterminds music group featuring the R&B sounds of JB "Smooth and Committed" Hughes.

40 West, Charity Ward and the TSU Tigergems brought the lengthy 2 hour show to a close...

"To sum it up in one word—great!" exclaimed co-host Jamal Johnson, a mass communications major from California. "TSU is a hard crowd, but there was a lot of great talent."*

events calendar

monday, march 30

Ananse Early in the Day Presentation
T. E. Poag Auditorium • 10:30 a.m.

Ananse Early in the Day Lecture
T. E. Poag Auditorium • 2 p.m.

tuesday, march 31

B.L.A.C.K. Inc. Women's Appreciation Dinner
Women's Building Auditorium • 7 p.m.

Miss Black & Gold Pageant
Kean Hall Gymnasium • 8 p.m.

wednesday, april 1

Radio Golf
Performing Arts Center • 7 p.m.

thursday, april 2
Hustler's Ambition Seminar
Boswell 243 • 8 p.m.

friday, april 3

Good Friday
Classes Cancelled

THE METER

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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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The front cover includes a photo illustration using various logos employed by the Web site twitter.com, a social networking tool that allows users to micro-blog via mobile, Web and other platforms.

ILLUSTRATION CREATED BY ONLINE EDITOR MARSHALL A. LATIMORE.

weather

M HI: 65°F
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T HI: 67°F
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Source: Weather.com

Twitter mania makes its campus debut

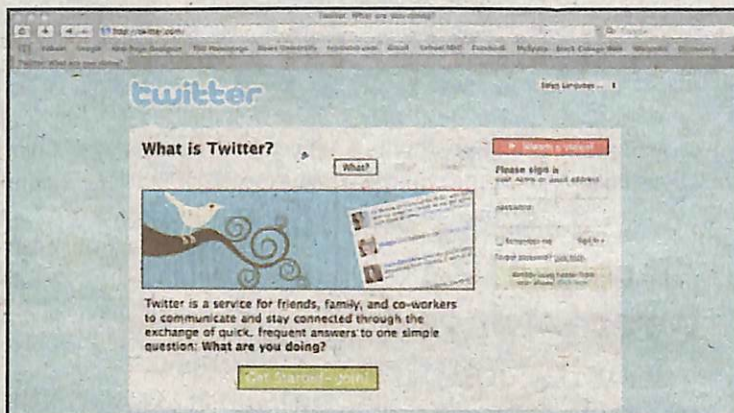
By Eva Pitts
Staff Reporter

Twitter, the a social networking in competition with Facebook, is slowly striking students' curiosities and, as a result, gaining popularity on campus.

The Bash Bosh Web site calls Twitter "for sure" the most popular micro-blogging service, great for building blogs or Web site links, in an article titled "Use Twitter for Link Building."

But TSU students locked in on the site have some opinions of their own.

"Twitter is fun and easy to keep up with friends and family as well as networking,"



Students and faculty on campus are becoming engaged with Twitter, a new social networking tool that is quickly launching competition against Facebook.

said Antonio Benton, a senior mass communication major from Atlanta. "I enjoy keeping up with my friends and Twitter allows you to update whenever, where ever (I am)."

According to *A Geek's Guide To Promoting Yourself and Your Online Business in 140 Characters or Less with Twitter* by Geekpreneur, tweeting can capture people's interest and

business.

By treating "tweets" as a headline, the ebook said, business relationships form from open-minded people interested in networking.

Nonetheless, many TSU students are becoming accustomed to Twitter and are taking advantage of what it has to offer.

"I was, at first, confused by the site, but now I use it to promote my radio station and get listeners to participate on my show," said Sherman Murdock, a senior communications major from Chicago. "It is an instant gauge of public reactions to major events formulated to only allow people to say something they mean."

Twitter is a micro-blogging

social network allowing users to inform others "What are you doing?" through 140-character updates called "tweets."

The service allows friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and connect without spending a lot of time blogging.

Twitter's popularity caught Facebook's eye when Facebook offered to acquire Twitter for \$500 million of its stock.

When Twitter refused, having believed Facebook did not have \$500 million in stock, the owner of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, produced a redesign, which redorbit.com said is an attempt to catch up with Twitter in an article titled, *Facebook Makes Changes To*

See "Facebook" on page 7

Spring graduates to wear blue academic regalia

By Seth E. Davis
Opinions Editor

This year's spring commencement TSU President Melvin N. Johnson plans to brand commencement by changing the graduation attire and adding an additional award.

This May candidates for commencement will be wearing royal blue caps and robes, with the university seal embroidered on the upper left side of the robe and a zipper with the university seal attached to the zipper.

In lieu of the black robes of the past and all students will be wearing the same blue and silver tassel, regardless of major.

However, students will still be able to wear graduation stoles.

Additional stoles will be worn by academic marshals, TBR representatives

and platform dignitaries.

According to John Cade, director of BANNER operations and protocol, the change in robe and tassel color is way of branding graduation and the institution.

"The goal of branding is to get the students to actually embrace their colors," Cade said. "Students will be pleased to know that the idea of the university as far as branding has come to fruition and it is not a drab ceremony."

Cade says that he has found that students are more concerned with, "Did I apply for graduation?" "Am I graduating?" and "Will I get to wear my academic regalia?"

Some students agree with Cade and Johnson's efforts brand graduation with the school colors.

"I think that it's wonderful," said Brandon Boyd, a senior music education major from Ocala, Fla. "It coincides with our school colors, which are something

to be proud of."

However, some students, including Ebony Fresh, a senior political science major from Indianapolis, see the topic of changing the gown colors differently.

"I love school spirit but blue gowns will clash with stole and cord colors and take away from individual's merit," Fresh said.

Another new aspect of this year's spring commencement is the addition of the University's Academic Excellence Award.

According to the graduation Web site, the award was commissioned by Johnson and will be presented to the student who is graduating with the highest honors (summa cum laude) and has the highest grade point average in the graduating class as well.

Caps and gowns will be available in the bookstore beginning April 27th-May 1.

A late processing fee of \$10 will be charged by the bookstore to students who have not picked up their attire by May 4.

Commencement rehearsal is scheduled for Friday, May 8 at 3:30 p.m. for 9:00am graduates and 5:30 for 2 p.m. graduates.

This spring's commencement will take place in the Gentry Center Complex May 9 at 9 a.m. for the College of Business, College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science, College of Health Sciences, School of Architecture and Consumer Sciences and the School of Nursing

Students in the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, and the Institute of Government will hold its exercises at 2 p.m.

For more information about commencement, go to www.tnstate.edu/commencement.

What We Think

University, students must keep up with tech trends

Communication among people would be inefficient without modern-day technology.

Telephone calls on land lines and letters in the mail have been trumped by emails and cell phones.

However, even those forms of technology are rapidly evolving and becoming more effective.

Can we really keep up with technology? Or, for some people, can the technology keep up with our ambitions?

It seems like we are always looking for the latest tech toy or the fastest internet connection available.

The world around us is driven by technology and the feeling of instant gratification that it provides.

Cell phones, laptops, music players and cameras all face the same type of

consumer test. If they are sleek, compact and can hook up to the internet consumers will purchase them.

Otherwise they are left to sit on the shelf to collect dust, especially if they are too expensive for consumers to purchase.

No one can afford not to catch on to this new wave of technology after all this is how we stay connected to each other.

It will be interesting to see how well TSU keeps up with modern technology.

Although internet connections are fast in computer labs, our wireless system is still lacking reliability.

Classrooms equipped with computers and projectors help to make learning easier,

however increasing the number of smart classrooms should be a future investment that the university should consider.

When discussing how our university is keeping up with modern day technology it is important to mention the high rate of social networking among students.

Campus computer labs seem to be crowded with students on Facebook and MySpace.

Twitter may soon become a popular

favorite once useable and word around campus spreads.

Just as technology devices are evolving, so are social networking Web sites.

It will be interesting to see if our university will start to use social networking sites to communicate with students or as a form of recruitment.

This could be yet another way for universities to boost enrollment and keep in touch with students.

Hopefully our students and university will continue to adopt new technology trends and make efforts to stay connected.

Share your comments and other feedback about TSU students embracing new technologies online at www.tsumeter.com.

"It seems like we are always looking for the latest tech toy or the fastest internet connection available."

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Be careful on social networks



Cara Anthony
Editor in chief

FROM WHERE I SIT

Professionals often warn students about the risk of having a profile on a social network.

However, I believe social networks can be harmless, useful and entraining as long as students are mindful of the content.

Controlling the content on ones individual pages may be the most important responsibility of maintaining a social network.

Drunken pictures from a wild night out with friends or other incriminating pictures may not be the best idea for a Facebook photo album.

Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence, an occurrence that future employers can look down upon.

Even if photographs are not 'wild' any photos with alcohol carry a risk as well, especially if those in pictures are under age.

Pictures with skimpy clothing or photos that display a person being overly promiscuous should also be avoided.

Just because your profile is blocked or private does not mean future employers do not have access to photographs.

A simple friend request or typing your name in a search engine could give companies access to all kinds of photos.

Some professionals even warn against the use of profanity on social networking sites. Using dirty language could also have a bad reflection on your ability to maintain professionalism at all times.

Although millions of users log on to social networking sites for entertainment purposes, it is important to think twice about what you and your friends put on the internet.

More than just businesses have access to the internet. Pastors, family members, teachers and even younger siblings are able to view pages posted. After all it is the World Wide Web.

There is nothing wrong with having Facebook, Myspace and/ or Twitter accounts, because they were purposed to be used for networking with those around the world.

Students should just be careful as to what they post on personal pages, since it is a reflection of the type of person they are.

One night of fun and seemingly harmless pictures could keep you from a great job in the future.

I twit, but Facebook's still my favorite



Eva Pitts
Assistant Opinions Editor

FROM WHERE I TWIT

I was completely oblivious to the Twitter "hype" soaring around the media.

I first heard about Twitter through one of my professors mentioning the Web site's popularity; however its circulation was not strong enough on campus to further my attention.

The majority of the student body is on Facebook, which allows a connection with college students' worldwide.

Twitter was just another social networking site, like MySpace, in competition with Facebook's social market.

I gave up my "Facebook time" to investigate why people seemed intrigued by the site.

My full name, user name, email address and password were established first, and then came three steps:

Step one: write "what you're doing" in the box, similar to Facebook statuses but only containing 140 characters called "micro-blogging."

Step two: Find some friends to follow (surprisingly difficult if "some friends" are active on Facebook only).

Step Three: Update friends by connecting Twitter to mobile phone. After step three, start micro-blogging

Apparently, as an active "tweeter" on the site, Twitter's popularity seems to just be from micro-blogging which is the ability to say what is necessary in the shortest way possible.

People micro-blog statements such as "Going shopping today what should I wear?" to "Visit my web site at..." If connected to the right "followers"

Twitter can be a useful networking tool for finding a job.

Music artists or people interested in media relations, network by micro-blogging links from Web sites.

I finally understand, after playing with Twitter and reading Mark Zuckerberg's blog "Improving your ability to share and connect," why people accuse Facebook of replicating Twitter after Facebook's redesign.

Facebook's homepage now allows you to see everything that is shared from friends and family through status, similar to micro-blogs by Twitter.

Despite Facebook's attempt to keep up with Twitter, Facebook will always win the battle. Facebook allows users to update pictures, post personal information under "info" and keep users occupied by use of quizzes, surveys and chats.

Twitter only allows one picture and an on-line bio written in 160-characters. I do not mind "tweeting" on Twitter, but Facebook is more fun with keeping up connections.

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THE METER

Recording TSU history since 1950

Facebook makes changes to keep up with Twitter

Continued from page 3

Keep Up With Twitter.

"People go to different social networks for different reasons so why make them the same," said Aaron McGee, junior communications major from Nashville.

The new changes on Facebook, Zuckerberg said in his administrator's blog on Facebook in an entry titled, "Improving your ability to share and connect," are so people have the ability to connect with friends, celebrities, musicians, politicians and organizations and concentrate on updates.

The new redesign, however, has become controversial as more than 1.7 million users signed up for the Petition of Against the New Facebook to stop Facebook from making large changes without asking users.

"Facebook now is so confusing and frustrating when you are trying to find comments and everything has been rearranged," said Albany Carpenter, a sophomore sociology major from Clarkville, Tenn. "Everything looks like what the status updates used to, it's all the same."

Out of 142 students asked only four students were active on the Twitter Web site. Though Twitter has not yet found a huge following on campus, the hype continues to heighten student's curiosity.

"I'm not on Twitter, but I have been curious to what it's all about," said Desiree A. Thomas, a junior mass communication major from Memphis. "I heard it's very addicting where you can post questions and get answers like an instant gratification site."

Students fret about TSU's image

By Ginny Ellsworth & Princess Heard
Contributing Reporters

Three days a week, Caroline Bane drives 43 miles from her Berry Hill home to Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Bane, a junior accounting major could travel just ten minutes to find her degree at TSU, but she is looking for more than just a framed degree.

"When I'm not in class my professors know it," Bane said. "Why would I want to go to a school where the staff doesn't seem to take their job seriously? This is my future we're talking about here!"

Bane is not the only middle Tennessee student who chooses to commute to a state school where she feels she is receiving an education superior to one she would receive at TSU.

Leonard A. Wilson, a 2008 graduate with a degree in interdisciplinary studies from Milwaukee came to TSU as a transfer student in 2005.

After a run-in with the financial aid department, Wilson was unsure of whether or not he made the right decision to move to Tennessee.

"(The department) sucks," Wilson said. "I was talking to a financial aid counselor about how I could get in-state tuition and she told me that I needed to sit out a year and work full time, which I later found out was untrue.

"As a counselor, she should never advise a student to sit out an academic year, ever," Wilson continued.

While the requirements for a student to apply for permanent in-state residency as a financially independent student are that he or she "must not have been enrolled in any institution of higher learning for at least 12 months leading up to the residency application deadline, worked full-time for this 12 month period in Tennessee, or filed federal taxes for the state of Tennessee to qualify for permanent change in residency," there exist at least 10 other

"TSU under-markets its own value. The university has a lot to offer Tennesseans in general, not just the black population." -Mike Viars

categories for which a student may apply for residency.

Recently, TSU suffered a \$3.2 million budget reversion, which left hundreds of students packing their bags to go home because they had been purged.

TSU saw almost a ten percent decrease in enrollment, while MTSU's enrollment reached 23,872 in 2008, nearly a three percent increase from 2007.

"The education I'm getting at MTSU is worth the drive," said Lacey Clemet, a MTSU student who lives in west Nashville.

Last fall a slew of stories on TSU hit the news, leaving an already struggling university to fight for its reputation. It began as early as registration of 2008's fall semester.

Students, who waited hours in line to ensure promised financial aid, were notified by local newspapers and TV stations that their identities were in jeopardy.

Shortly after, TSU hit the front page of the *Nashville Scene* when columnist, Tracy Moore, described in detail the struggle of students trying to work with student service programs such as Financial Aid, which only highlighted the inefficiency of TSU's administration.

"Admissions and Financial Aid are a student's first impression of a university," Bane said. "If those departments aren't competent, how do I know (that) my professors will be?"

With other reports of budget cuts and TSU's financial struggle weaving through the local media, other Nashvillians believe the institution needs to market its academic strengths in order to shed a positive light

on the university and increase enrollment.

Desmond A. Jackson, a sophomore business administration major from Memphis who attends MTSU, said he is satisfied with the financial aid department there and is comfortable with them handling all of his information.

"The financial aid department at MTSU is pretty good based on other schools I hear about," Jackson said. "I haven't had any major trouble receiving any type of aid or refund check from them. It usually takes about a week once classes start, for me to receive my refund."

TSU has fostered the futures of greats such as Oprah Winfrey, Wilma Rudolph and Levi Watkins.

"I came to TSU on an academic honors scholarship (more than) 20 years ago, and believe that TSU still has high standards for its students," said TSU alumnus, Tobia Burdette.

Although others believe TSU has traditionally been marketed as an Historically Black University (HBCU), its reputation as a state school is growing stronger.

While Murfreesboro native Mike Viars graduated from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, he believes TSU needs to put to the forefront its academic strengths in the Nashville community.

"TSU under-markets its own value," Viars said. "The university has a lot to offer Tennesseans in general, not just the black population.

"Many HBCUs market their academics well and succeed and there is no reason TSU shouldn't rival MTSU in academics and enrollment," Viars added.

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ARTS
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Monday, March 30, 2009

Volume 59 Issue 18



PERFECT GIRL,
PERFECT 'WORLD'
See page 12

TSU femcee makes professional moves, expands

By Gregory Brand Jr.
Senior Editor

On a cloudy Tuesday night in a small East Nashville house, Weetu, The Voice of the Streets is waiting.

On the surface, she is waiting on the members of her live 10-piece band, Da Truth, to arrive and begin practice for a show on the following Thursday night.

On another level, she is waiting on the recognition and attention that comes with the type of music and high-energy performances she and her band deliver every time they come to the stage.

This type of waiting is one that can only come from hours, days and years of tireless dedication and drive toward a single goal.

For her, the goal is being a musician, artist and businesswoman; however, Weetu also hopes her motivational and powerful will empower and bless many others.

The past four years have been a very busy time in the life of Sheryl-Lynn Weetu Swen.

In the short but often monumental period of college matriculation, she has made quite a few transitions and continues to evolve.

Like the various forms of life that have survived on this planet, evolution makes sure the best living creatures move

forward.

Swen can count herself among those who have enjoyed success.

Evidence of her success is plastered on the walls of the room in her home she has fashioned into a state-of-the-art music studio.

From the floor to the ceiling, there are depictions and posters of Nas, LL Cool J, Talib Kweli and even Janet Jackson.

To her they seem to be representations of what could be if she continues the path she is currently riding on.

From the technology and décor within the space, it is clear that she intends to continue.

Swen has accomplished much as an independent emcee and now even more as an entrepreneur and label head.

While her goal has always been the production and performance of the music that has helped shape her life and solidify her character, the elements that have made her diversify her involvement within the music industry and other closely related areas are yet another form of evolution.

"I've had to sacrifice a lot to get to where I am now," said Swen, a senior commercial music major from Atlanta by-way-of New Jersey. "Music is my life. My life revolves around this music. When it comes to sacrifice, I've put everything on the line to make this happen."

But sacrifice is not the



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Weetu, The Voice of the Streets (center right) performs on campus.

only thing the artist is giving to her upward climb as both an artist and a person. She has also taken it upon herself to begin branding herself and expanding her vision.

She credits the ever changing expansion of her vision is what as the largest part of her continued success.

Originally making her debut as a rapper and performer when she began as a student on TSU's campus (*Meter* issue 4/24/2006) and later evolving into a seasoned performer and opener for TSU's Homecoming Concert (*Meter* issue 10/29/2007), the artist is now working outside the campus that has nurtured her to further

spread her name and continue building her growing brand.

Consequently, building the brand is a segment of her expansion that is drawing lots of attention.

In early 2007, Swen put together what would become 'We All We Got Entertainment,' the leg of her business that includes her own production studio, artist management, a fully staffed street team and even a clothing line.

Each of the aforementioned elements work together to push the artist forward, toward mainstream attention.

The effects have already begun to catch the attention of students and fans.

"I was talking to a friend about trying to get a hold of a T-shirt," said Melinda Goldthread, a senior mass communication major from Nashville. "I saw some of them at a show at Belmont and since I like the music, I know I can do the clothes too."

Though the brand has stretched to include many different elements besides music, it is still the primary focus.

First and foremost, she feels that she is a lyricist, and because she is a lyricist, her words and the message she has to deliver mean a lot to her.

See "Swen" on page 11

Ryan Leslie has listeners wanting more

Ryan Leslie
Ryan Leslie
Grade: A

Singer/producer Ryan Leslie has dropped one of this year's smartest and most entertaining albums, but most music fans don't even know his name—yet.

Leslie's self-titled debut album is an eclectic mix of smooth balladry and enough clever tongue-in-cheek flirtation to fill dance floors and blare out of almost everyone's car speakers.

A product of Diddy's Bad Boy camp, Ryan Leslie features much of the trademark crisp production and modern songwriting that is associated with the famous label.

Leslie takes it a step further by making music that sounds very spur-of-the-moment and honest.

The works comes off as fun and it is the honesty that makes them appealing.

Having garnered attention for the breakout radio singles, *Diamond Girl* and the Fabolous- and Cassie-featured, *Addiction*,

Leslie is already catching the ears and attention of many club goers.

A deeper look into the album shows that he has more to offer.

In only twelve tracks, Leslie is able to cover a bevy of topics dealing with living, loving, ladies and getting a little action.

His sound is original, mixing in elements of old school soul and contemporary R&B, but the work also ties in elements of hip-hop and pop sensibilities.

The wordplay on the quirky and honest track, *You're Fly* and the driving charmer, *Quicksand* are clear examples of Leslie's bubbling talent, because they reflect his stylish delivery and atypical artistic angle.

The album reaches farther than the typical modern R&B record by doing something few artists do anymore—take chances.

While the album sticks to the genre format, there is also plenty of experimentation present.

This willingness to take a little gamble shines brightly on the clever track, *Gibberish*.

Gibberish gives Leslie an opportunity to show his clever vocoder-laced vocals and musicianship without uttering more than a few real words the entire song.

Though Ryan Leslie comes in with a seemingly short playlist, much is accomplished in the slim 12 tracks.

It makes the album seem almost incomplete, even though there is a solid closer on the collection of musical goodies. In fact, the short track list is the one of the album's only weaknesses.

Adding a couple more tracks would have been the much needed oomph to make this debut even more special.

Bottom Line: Had Ryan Leslie given a little more to listeners, we could have a solid innovative classic on our hands instead of a short EP-style glimpse into the mind of an actual artist.

Gregory Brand, Jr. •

THE LOOK OF SPRING FASHIONS

Winter is finally over! The sun is shining bright and the skies are blue.

Spring is here and The Meter has narrowed down the top three hottest must have spring clothing for men and women.

So all fashionistas and pretty boys throw your scarves, sweaters, and boots to the back of the closets and make room for the hot stylish trends of the spring.

First on the list, ladies, is the **Sporty Dress**. This cute, shape fitting dress is perfect. Not only is it comfortable, but it can be worn anywhere at any time, whether running errands, hanging with girlfriends, a hot date with a beau or potential beau, or out to dinner with the parents. Ladies, dress it up or down with the right pair of shoes and simple jewelry.

Speaking of shoes, what's the hottest new footwear for the spring? That would be **Gladiator Sandals**. The sexy straps and laces on the sandals make them sexy.

This spring, it's all about laces and straps, and the more, the better. For ladies who want to have longer legs, wrapping laces around them creates the illusion of longer legs.

Lastly, of course, is the **Bag**. Every diva knows it's all about having the right bag and the perfect pair of shoes. This spring, for the bag, it's all about the size and color. Big, bright colored bags are in. Everything will fit from makeup, money, phones, iPods, and of course, your favorite lip gloss.

Alright, men! Do you want to change your look? Are your girlfriends begging

you to change your wardrobe? Well this spring, it may be easier than you expect. In 2009, it's all about feeling comfortable, brandishing bright colors, and mixing and matching patterns.

Ties are a must, especially skinny, bright neon colored ties. Wearing them with buttoned down or **short-sleeve shirts** is magic. Yes, short sleeve shirts. This spring, it's all about mixing, matching, and making it blend.

To accompany the tie, go with bright, **plaid**, short sleeve shirts. Plaid is back. With the right short sleeve plaid shirt, attending a casual date, a hot party, or a cookout with family and friends is no problem. Wear it loosely, and show a little chest for the ladies.

What is not to love about the **slip-on shoe**? It's comfortable, it doesn't require work, and it goes with practically everything. The right tinge of brown or beige works for a church visit, an office presence, or a simple night out. If you're running late, just slip it on and go. It's sleek, stylish and convenient.

The hot new spring trends are in. Stay fly and in style! Be the person wearing the new trends, instead of not knowing about them.

Christopher
Patterson •



Swen aims to burn up the microphone

Continued from page 9

When Swen is making music, be it live or on wax, she aims to spit 'hot fire.' All she has to do is get the fire out to the masses. To her, the fire is the lyrics that she spits and the live music that carries them.

"I'm dedicated to using all of the gifts that God gave me," Swen said. "If it is me being able to snap my fingers and kick my feet, that's what I'm going to do."

She credits much of her success to her relationship with a higher power.

"Before I write anything, I make sure that I pray," Swen said. "I don't know where it comes from after that but that is always the first thing that I do."

In doing so, she believes that the work is more than an opportunity to be seen on stage.

"My music is a reflection of God," Swen said in a serious tone. "He placed this gift in me, so who am I making this music for? It is for Him so that I can be a living testimony for others."

She also points out that her music is for the people despite the spiritual place it comes from.

"People ask me all the time if my music is secular (or not)," Swen said. "I'm just very spiritual and make it known where (the music) comes from."

As she sits her cup down on her very own production console, the front door opens and her drummer and music producer, Jeremy Mitchell, a junior commercial music major at Middle Tennessee State University and a native of Memphis walks in.

The interaction between the two is nothing short of close. They call each other by nicknames and function like



PHOTO BY GREGORY BRAND JR.
Weetu, The Voice of the Streets (center right) performs with her band Da Truth at a local gig.

mature brother and sister.

There are jokes shared but also serious exchanges regarding the gig that is set for the coming Thursday.

Mitchell has been working with Weetu since she decided to make her sound jump with live instrumentation.

"We used to be in the band together at TSU," Mitchell said. "We just decided one day to get something together. And we've lasted through about five different bands. I just love to do it."

Mitchell and Weetu are two of the

primary collaborators when it comes to putting together the sounds that end up ultimately being used by the band.

Despite line up changes with the active band, Weetu and Da Truth have been performing in shows all over Nashville and beyond.

The performances serve as opportunities to get exposure and to deliver the message that Swen is striving to make known everywhere.

The message is ultimately positive and serves to inform and encourage listeners. With real lyricism Swen aims to not waste time on negativity but focus on building and uplifting.

Though she wants the exposure and attention for both her and the band, she is not willing to compromise herself or her music to get there.

"It's as if they don't believe women will be heard if they aren't performing naked," Swen said in an earlier interview.

"(T)hey wanted me to sell my soul and I wasn't about to do that."

A moment later, Jeremy Jones, Weetu's bassist and a senior music major from Clarksville fills the room with loud untamed energy.

He, like Mitchell, met Swen in TSU's Aristocrat of Bands and has been supporting her dream since he joined her in the live band.

"The time was right when I joined the band," Jones said. "I wasn't even an original member but the band was doing what it needed to do. We all had the drive to make it happen and we (are) trying to do it."

In between interviews with Swen and members of Da Truth the energy is high.

Weetu keeps disappearing into her own booth to freestyle while Jones negotiates rehearsal times by phone and Mitchell scribbles silently in a notebook.

Although they are seemingly operating independently, they are all connected somehow and that connection stems from more than just the band they play in.

They are like family. With all of the members working toward getting good music out into the streets, Weetu believes they are all ready for the next step.

As the sound guy at the Soul Lounge performance on Thursday night makes the last tweak of the stage's sound monitor, Weetu and Da Truth break off into a live rendition of Hello and under the lights on stage they all look a little different than they did only days and moments before.

Now, instead of the rehearsal, they are a band making live music and entertaining a listening crowd.

"The sky is definitely the limit," Swen said. "I truly believe that. Look at where Def Jam came from and where it is now. Believe in yourself. If you don't know one else will."

If she continues to truly believe, she may just stand should to shoulder if not higher than those 'greats' she has just mentioned.

"I'm dedicated to using all of the gifts that God gave me. If it is me being able to snap my fingers and kick my feet, that's what I'm going to do." —Weetu Swen

Hilson's 'perfect' debut weathers storms

In A Perfect World...

Keri Hilson

Grade: A-

Talented songwriter and emerging "it girl" Keri Hilson aims to make a name for her own beautiful voice in her richly entertaining debut, *In A Perfect World...*

After months of delays and push-backs, the album finally makes it to the purchasing public and delivers with a spirited collection of dancefloor gems and cleverly weaved wordplay.

Ms. Hilson is first and foremost is a songwriter and her wordplay is the dominating force throughout the work.

As a member of the songwriting and music production collective know only as the Clutch, Hilson has penned hit singles for the likes of Ciara, Timbaland and Nicole Scherzinger of the Pussycat Dolls.

She holds tight to the writing skills that have been a major earner for her by blessing her own debut with catchy hooks and introspective lyrics.

Clever wordplay is one of the first things a listener is likely to pick up with this collection of tracks. On the current chart topper, *Turnin Me On*, Hilson delivers a list of do's and don'ts to fellas that have the gall to approach her.

Power is added to the track by the ubiquitous emcee Lil Wayne giving "Ms. Keri" the types of lines she wants to hear from her ideal man. Mixed in with the solid lyricism is the use of interesting song concepts with emotional ties.

On the lead single, *Energy*, Hilson does well with a song dedicated to a lover that is taking more than they are giving. This is also the case on the smooth groove of *Alienated* where she addresses her loneliness after the disappearance of a lover.

The album is backed mainly by production from frequent collaborators Timbaland, his

protégée Danja and Polow Da Don and their sonic soundscapes do nothing but add additional power to the already solid effort. Hilson's sweet vocals and songwriting could have easily dominated the album alone but the beats make it a classic-level debut.

Having cut her teeth in the industry as a writer before making an attempt to take the spotlight for herself, Hilson has made a lot of friends in the music industry and those connections support her through out the LP.

With tracks laced by the aforementioned Timbaland and Polow Da Don and features from R-Kelly, NeYo, Lil Wayne and Kanye West, it is clear that Hilson means business.

As previously mentioned, Hilson does not rely on the beats to make her music great.

It is interesting to hear the subtle differences in inflection and delivery between tracks on the album as well. Hilson shows that a blanket sound is not always the most useful tool in the delivery of vocals. This approach is a winning philosophy on this album.

On some tracks she is breathy and light, others she is full-throated and strong and the results make the album exciting and interesting. There is no chance to bore the listener if each track is treated as a separate entity.

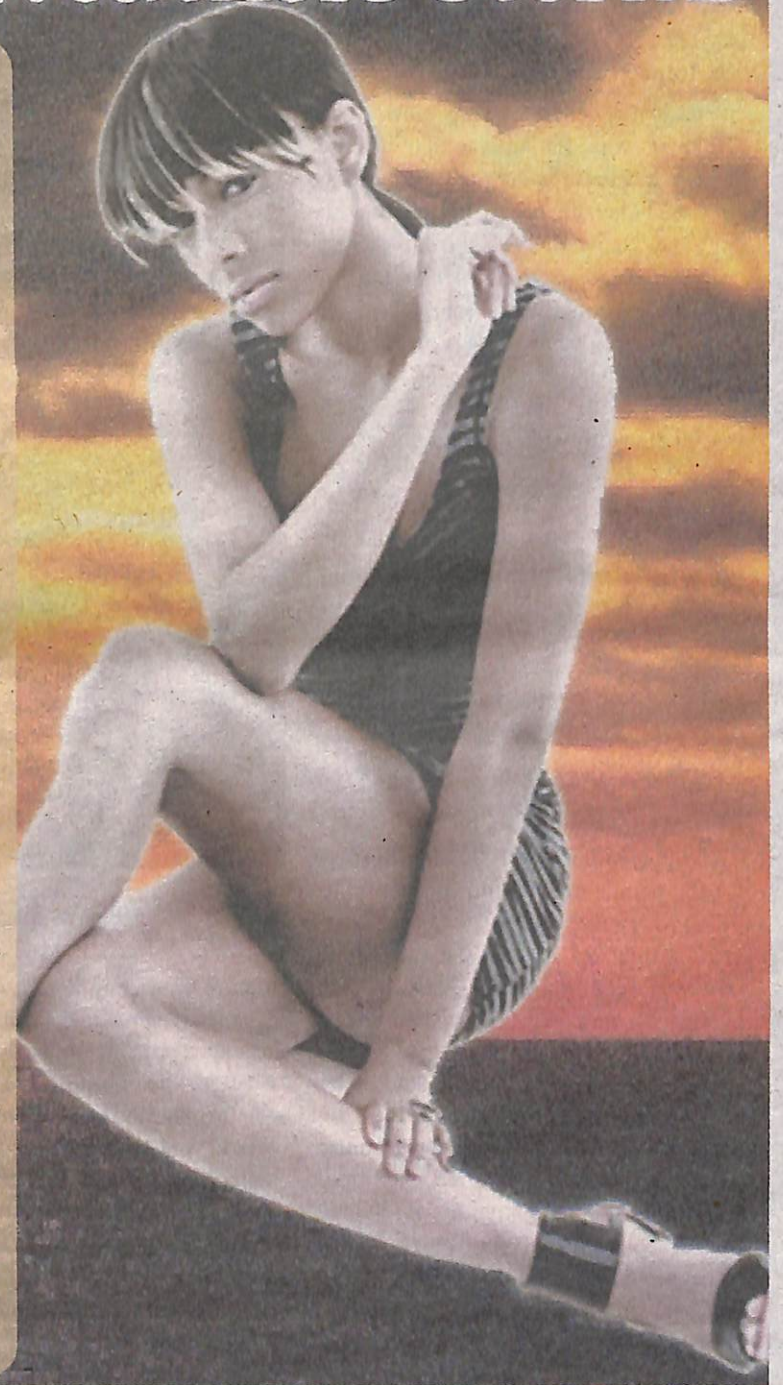
The album's only weakness shows itself with the songs that don't necessarily fit in with the cohesively eclectic sounds. One or two of the tracks just don't fit the dominant sound on the LP.

This is apparent on the Akon assisted moan-fest *Change Me*. While the song isn't horrible, it fails to match the futuristic scoring that carries the album.

Overall, the album is amazing and is almost totally flawless. Hilson is a colossal talent and *In A Perfect World* shows her skills well.

Bottom Line: Keri Hilson is the truth and the album is definitely one that should be placed in everyone's personal collection.

Gregory Brand, Jr.



the *Onyx* urbanite

Entertainment commentary
& news provided by
Gregory Brand Jr.

theonyxurbanite.blogspot.com

THE METER SPORTS

Monday, March 30, 2009

Volume 59 Issue 18

Tigers, new and old, take shot at Pros

By Jeremy Perry
Contributing Reporter

March 20 marked the day that 22 former Tiger football players showcased their talent to scouts from the National Football League (NFL).

The day began in the weight room with the players checking in. Immediately following, the players lined up for height and weight measurements along the bleachers of Gentry Complex Center.

Then it was time to let the players begin their long-awaited testing.

"It's 32 teams, I only need to be on 1," said James Finch, a former Tiger offensive lineman from Indianapolis.

The nerves inside of Gentry were running wild as the first three attempts at the broad jump drill were labeled as scratches.

According to the scout that was measuring the distance of the jumps, the players only got 2 chances to record the

best jumps possible.

The players realized they had to make the best of their limited opportunities, and Ronald Evans, former wide receiver from Birmingham, recorded a jump of 9 feet 5 inches, good by any standards.

"I was thinking to myself, these guys either did not work out like they should have in order to get themselves ready for this, or they must really be nervous," said Charles Sparkman, a junior TSU offensive lineman from Nashville. "I've seen all of them jump further and have a clean landing."

When the scouts finished recording the numbers for the broad and vertical jump drills, they headed to the weight room to begin the 225-pound bench press testing.

Twenty NFL teams represented to scout the 22 players in attendance, but the main attractions were All-American running back Javarris Williams, from Richmond, Texas, and first team All-Ohio Valley Conference tackle Cornelius Lewis from Jacksonville, Fla.

Williams and Lewis both attended the NFL combine in Indianapolis, February 18-24 and posted good numbers on the bench press.

Williams decided to opt out on the bench press and keep his numbers from the combine.

Lewis on the other hand saw this as an opportunity for improvement and went from 29 reps in Indianapolis to 31 reps before a cheering crowd inside the weight room of Gentry Center.

"I believe he has a great work ethic," said John Lopez, a freshman kicker from Brentwood. "I believe it shows the scouts he works hard because to improve your bench press max in that short period time, you have to be working hard."

Next, players were tested in the speed drills. Scouts from the New York Giants, Minnesota Vikings and several other teams stood at the finish line with their stop watches waiting for the coveted 40 yard dash.

"I don't know what I ran," said Tyron Johnson, a former cornerback

from Richmond, Calif. "One scout clocked me at a 4.3, another clocked me at 4.4, and another said I ran a 4.55."

Another former Tiger sensation that was taking advantage of the professional attention was quarterback Antonio Heffner of Memphis.

Heffner was given a 'thumbs up' from one scout after posting a good time in the 3 cone shuttle drill.

The scouts wanted Heffner to participate in quarterback and wide receiver drills because of his versatile skill set.

Heffner met their expectations by posting a solid time of 12.86 seconds in the 60-yard shuttle.

"I just want to prove to the scouts that I can play at the next level," Heffner said.

Despite the unfavorable field conditions, many of the former Tigers were impressive.

"The more positions you can play, the more valuable you are," said Andre Williams, owner of William and State and Sports.

TSU president names new head basketball coach

TSU President Melvin N. Johnson named John Cooper as the new head coach for the Tiger's men's basketball team.

Cooper comes to the university from Auburn University, where he was associate head men's basketball coach alongside Jeff Lebo.

Cooper has more than 15 years of basketball coaching experience, including stints at Oregon, South Carolina and Fayetteville State universities.

This is Cooper's first position as

head coach.

Golf student named OVC standout

Chris Seibel was named the OVC Golfer of the week, March 25th. Junior Seibel had rounds of 78 and 74 to finish at 152 (+8) at the Butler Spring Invitational in Avon, Ind.

Seibel placed seventh overall and led the Tigers to a seventh place finish at the event.

Marlin player refuses to chop

his locks

Hanley Ramirez states that he wanted to be traded after MLB Marlins manager Fredi Gonzales recently forced all his long-haired players to pay a visit to the hair dresser.

Gonzales wants the team to settle for a more professional look, short hair and no jewelry are among these new rules.

Considering the numbers that Ramirez put up in 08'—33 homers and 34 doubles—there are other MLB managers who would take Ramirez.

Michigan State University's Raymar Morgan was injured early in the second half the Michigan State vs. University of Kansas game this past Friday night.

Morgan's teammate Delvon Roe went up for a block, and accidentally elbowed Morgan in the nose on the way down.

Michigan State came out with a victory 67-62.

Compiled by
Jessica Moseley



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Lady Tigers split a doubleheader against JSU

By Jessica Moseley
Asst. Sports Editor

After losing to Jacksonville State the day before, TSU's Tigers softball team split a doubleheader Saturday, March 21 against the Gamecocks at Tiger Field.

The Tigers fell short in the first game with a final score of 7-0, but came up with a win in the second game with a score of 3-2 in extra innings, giving the Gamecocks their first conference loss of the season.

The Tigers were led in hitting by

Christy Hill, who averaged 3-6 at the plate with a double and team leading two RBIs.

Tamara Perkins and Caitlin Eaton both hit 2-of-6 with Perkins marking a double and a homerun.

In the first game, the Gamecocks scored seven runs on the Tigers with nine hits and committing one error.

Jacksonville State scored one run in the first and second innings, three more in the fifth inning and then two in the seventh.

The Tigers only hit 5-of-25 leaving five runners stranded at the plate.

Megan Hedrick gave up four earned runs in four innings, only striking out two players. The Gamecocks' Karla Pittman pitched the whole game giving up five hits and threw eight strikeouts.

In the second game while the score was tied, Tamara Perkins hit a home run in the eighth innings to take the Tigers to 3-2 win in the extra inning. The home run was Perkins only hit, being 1-of-3.

Caitlin Eaton pitched the whole game for the Tigers.

Eaton Pitched seven hits and threw five strikeouts and lead TSU at bat in

game to with two RBI's.

At the bottom of the second, Christy Hill hit a double to the right center and Perkins and Jalisa Bradley ran in to give the Tigers the lead 2-1.

At the top of the fourth the Gamecocks tied the game at 2-2, then after of three scoreless innings, Perkins hit the winning shot over the fence with one out.

The Tigers were set to travel to Memphis on Wednesday, March 25, but the game was cancelled due to inclement weather in the Memphis area.

Study: Sex good for heart health

By Jessica Moseley
Asst. Sports Editor

When thinking of ways to improve heart health and increasing stamina many people think of running on a treadmill or perhaps jogging on the track for a few hours.

But did you know that sexual intercourse is the number one cardiovascular exercise?

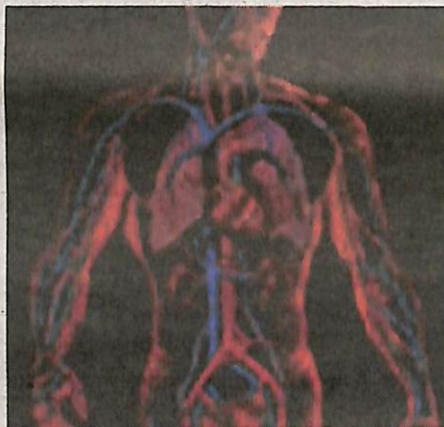
That's right! Sexual intercourse has been proven to improve cardiovascular health and protect against specific diseases. Sex is also proven to ease joint and muscle pain, combat depression, and lengthen the life span.

"I agree, because your heart rate increases," says Ariane Banks a Mass Communications major. "That's really the basis of fitness, cardio. Getting your heart rate up."

Energy plays an important part when sexually active. Beginning a fitness routine has been shown to improve sexual function.

However when planning to embark on a sexually active lifestyle it is important to take other aspects of health in to consideration, both mentally and physically.

"It helps the mental state of mind," said Vincent Seaborn, a senior health



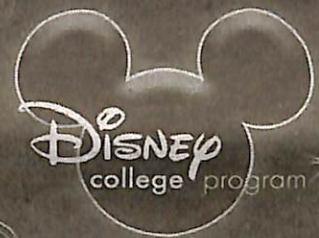
Studies show that sex is good for cardiovascular health.

science/public health major. "It provides a connection with the person your with, forms a soul tie."

As many people know sex also brings to the surface sexually transmitted diseases and HIV and AIDS so it is important to take the proper steps to protect yourself and your partner.

So when taking on a sexually active relationship, be healthy, be happy, and make it safe.

Remember regular exercise and diet should be apart of everyone's daily routine. Tips for a healthy active lifestyle can be found at americanheart.org.



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