



What's Inside:

Writers argue whether superheroes are better with or without powers. **Variety, pg. 6**

The Trojans venture to Atlanta in search of a road win. **Sports, pg. 8**



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PROPOLITAN

Government shutdown hits Troy University, economists and leaders speak up

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—Towns



Daniel Smith

George Crowley

Jason Messick

Kyle Hudson

Travis McCullough

Lance Tatum

Troy Towns

Karli Mauldin

Assistant News Editor

With the U.S. government reaching its 11th day of a partial shutdown, Troy University is feeling the impact.

Lance Tatum, the vice chancellor for the university's Global Campus, said tuition assistance for all five military branches has been suspended, effective Oct. 1.

Term 2 of online classes, which starts Oct. 14, will not be covered for the military branches by tuition assistance, and on Sept. 30 at 11:59 p.m. the Army portal through which students register was shut down, so no one else could register.

"Troy caps the tuition rate for active military on eTROY," Tatum said. "The tuition price for eTROY is \$308 for students and \$250 for active-duty military. TA pays up to \$250, so they receive full tuition."

Tatum said only a small group is registered for Term 2, and many were unable to register.

If the budget crisis is not resolved by the first day of Term 2, students serving in the armed forces may have to decide how they're going to pay for

school.

Tatum said he's currently working to make a plan with Chancellor Jack Hawkins on how to help the active-duty military students receive the full tuition they've been promised.

"With the (federal) debt issue looming, we're probably in for another several weeks of fighting," Tatum said in reference to congressional negotiations. "I think we will try to do everything we can to try and reimburse students."

Tatum also said the 9/11 GI Bill was not affected in the shutdown, and several active-duty members are trying to apply for the veterans' benefits, but not all will qualify.

Jason Messick, a Veterans Affairs (VA) financial aid counselor, said the VA will have enough funding until Oct. 31, and after then he is not sure how the payments will work.

"It could delay post-9/11 benefits," he said. "They may not get it on Oct. 31, but maybe sometime after that. The VA has only set aside essential personnel to work during the shutdown. They're working with a skeleton crew because they don't have enough money to

pay everyone. A lot of people are just at home waiting to be called back to work after the shutdown."

Travis McCullough, another VA financial aid counselor, agreed that there is a lot of uncertainty with the shutdown when it comes to the VA.

"It's a terrible thing, and it's affecting a lot of people," he said. "Hopefully, they can come to a solution soon and get things right. As far as who's right and who's wrong, I really don't know."

Kyle Hudson, a Troy local and a graduate student studying international relations with a bachelor's degree in political science and history from Troy, said it's ludicrous that the government shut down when the two political parties couldn't negotiate any kind of solution to fix the overall problem.

"It seems to be more popular for the government to fight," Hudson said. "The president is listening to his own party and not the American people. He's taking their position against the rest of the country, and the Republicans have done the same thing."

He said that the United States

government has made a mockery of how democracy works and that it's no longer the main idea, but it's about who's popular and who can smear the other one the best.

"It's done nothing but catalyze this new notion of bad-face politics," he said. "The system was designed to where people have to work together in order to provide necessary elements to the people. They need to find a solution to make it work."

"I think that shutdown of the government is ridiculous," said Ashley Lampley, a freshman nursing major from Hoover. "From my understanding, the Republican Party wants to veto Obamacare, so they're holding bars on the government until things get changed."

"Frankly I think that the health care bill will help a lot of Americans. Change some parts of the bill? Yes. But canceling the entire plan will just not work. I don't think it's fair for the American people, specifically the ones working government jobs to not be paid."

Economists at Troy University commented on the shutdown, which resulted largely from a dispute about whether to fund

Obamacare, the new health insurance law.

"I think a lot of being shut down is strategically chosen to inflict as much burden on the regular users of these services," said Daniel Smith, assistant

professor of political economics. "Instead of cutting all the areas that we know of that government could save money on, they're choosing to cut money on where they're going to hurt people so that we will feel it." Smith pointed out that since 2002, government spending has increased by 40 percent.

"The recent Economic Freedom of the World Annual Report was just released, and in the last few years, the United States has fallen from second in economic freedom to 17th," Smith said.

"Unfortunately even with this, I don't think a serious reform will be made. We will not see either political party make drastic cuts in funding. I think we're going to get short-term, Band-Aid solutions,

See **Shutdown**, page 2



April Irvin photo

Jenny Duncan (left) and Heather Edgar (right) gave away complimentary lemonade to students on the main quad Monday.

Week of events highlights mental health awareness

Jacob Barber
Staff Writer

This week the SAVE Project and Personal Counseling Office hosted a different event each day on the main quad to commemorate National Mental Health Awareness Week.

Monday was entitled "Turn your Lemons into Lemonade," where the group gave away complimentary lemonade and advised students on the importance of positive thinking and properly combatting worry. On Tuesday, students were told "get it off your chest" and were able to anonymously leave a note with a worry

or fear to be shredded at the end of the day.

Wednesday, students could receive free chocolate as a reminder that "stressed spelled backwards is desserts," along with stress-reduction tips.

Finally, Thursday, students were offered free sleep masks and earplugs in addition to information on healthy sleep.

"What we're trying to do is raise awareness," said Miranda Carlee, a junior psychology major from Chelsea and a peer educator with the SAVE Project.

See **SAVE**, page 2

Police: Tickets not revenue for police

Patrick Stephens
Staff Writer

The Troy University Police Department has issued 5596 parking tickets so far this academic year.

These tickets can be ranging in price from \$10 for parking in the wrong zone for your parking permit all the way up to \$75 for parking in a handicap zone without the proper permit.

"We don't issue tickets to try and raise revenue contrary to popular beliefs," said University Police Chief John McCall. "The police department doesn't receive a dime of ticket money."

Due to this, the police department is not able to track how many of these tickets have been paid back. Many of these tickets may never be paid, as

they could be warnings or written to people that visited campus and may never be back.

The problem identified by Chief McCall is keeping appropriate parking available to the appropriate permit holders. "The whole thing is chasing the problem. When yellow decals park in a black zone, the black decals don't have enough spots to park and they park in spots reserved for residents, forcing them to take other spots and the problem compounds itself."

"I've been in this job for 27 years and things are no different today than they were when I started," Dot Helms, radio dispatcher

See **Tickets**, page 2

Montgomery County Minority Grand Old Party guests give testimonies to College Republicans

Patrick Stephens
Staff Writer

The Troy University College Republicans welcomed three speakers from the Montgomery County Minority Grand Old Party to their organization's meeting Monday.

William Green, president of the Montgomery County Minority GOP and Troy Towns, vice president, addressed the group about their "pass the torch tour," the goal of which is to engage college students looking to become involved in politics.

Towns began addressing the students gathered at the meeting by asking what they thought it meant to be a republican and what they thought the foundation of the Republican party was.

Students answered that they identified with the



Caitlin Collins photo

Three speakers from the Montgomery County Minority Grand Old Party were guests at Troy University's College Republicans meeting on Monday night. One of which, pictured above is Fidel Fonseca.

Republican party from reasons ranging from agreement with the economic platform, to it seeming to just be simple common sense.

William Green started his speech by discussing his background with the Republican party and how

his upbringing influenced that decision.

"My situation was a little bit different than everybody else, I was never really a democrat," Green said.

"I was taught that the white man was the devil. However, I was smart

enough at a young age to look around and say 'if the white man was the devil, then why is all the evil being done to me by black people?'"

See **GOP**, page 2

THURSDAY 84°F 57°F high low	FRIDAY 84°F 57°F high low	SATURDAY 84°F 55°F high low	SUNDAY 86°F 57°F high low	MONDAY 84°F 59°F high low	TUESDAY 82°F 60°F high low	WEDNESDAY 76°F 55°F high low
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Half-million-dollar federal grant to fund master's degree

Kelsey Vickers
Staff Writer

The U.S. State Department has given Troy University nearly a half-million dollar grant to create a new master's degree and foster research in international affairs in the Republic of Georgia.

Sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia, the \$495,000 grant will be funding a partnership with the Georgia Institute of Public Affairs to help strengthen the research capacity with the institution's graduate International Affairs Program, as well as helping develop a master's program in International Development.

"Troy University is uniquely positioned to ensure that this collaborative effort is successful, in part due to our long history of strong international partnerships," Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. said. "Troy University's pursuit of international opportunities began when we embarked on our voyage of intentional internationalization more than 20 years ago."

Jonathan Harrington, a professor of political sci-

ence and director of the university's Master of Science in International Relations Program, said he believes the partnership will bring together new pathways of learning for both Georgia and Troy students.

"Our new partnership will provide numerous avenues for Troy students and faculty to interact with and learn from their Georgian colleagues including student exchanges, scholarships, joint publishing opportunities and the creation of new academic programs on both sides of the Atlantic," he said.

Terry Anderson, a public administration associate professor at Troy who worked extensively with the School of Government's Master of Public Administration, or GIPA, worked with Harrington to develop the three-year project.

"Georgia has demonstrated its desire to become part of a global society that is progressive, and its leaders clearly know the value of higher education -- especially when delivered in concert with American partners," Anderson said.

"GIPA is located in a part of the world that

is perfect for Troy - an emerging democracy, a former Soviet republic, that is on the cutting edge among its neighbors in terms of education in the fields of international affairs and public administration."

She said she believes this opportunity will help offer an entry point for study abroad courses for both MPA and MSIR students.

Anderson said the main issue with developing this partnership was funding, which is what Harrington also stressed.

"We would like to acknowledge the critical role that the United States Department of State has played in making this partnership possible," he said. "Their generous grant has made it possible for Troy and GIPA to take their growing relationship to the next level."

The project will begin immediately, and four GIPA faculty members will be expected to begin a faculty exchange next spring on Troy's campus. The Troy faculty from the Department of Political Science will conduct research and teach in Georgia as well.



April Irvin photo

Donald Jones, a senior marketing major from Auburn talks to Carla Tucholsky, a talent specialist of Enterprise Holdings. The career services department hosted a career fair Wednesday, which was preceded by two career day 'boot camps' that targeted juniors and seniors to prepare for the fair. Career services hosts two career fairs a year, one in the fall and another in the spring.

GOP

continued from page 1

He went on to talk about how this taught him at an early age not to judge people by what they were saying, but rather to judge them based on how they treated other people.

"So as a result it made sense, you know, the democrats, they would come to you and tell you that as a black individual you are not as smart as everyone else, so we are going to have to lower the bar and the only way you are going to make it is to be a part of a government program," he said.

"And I for one never believed in that. I always thought that I was just as smart as everyone else."

When Green finished, he turned the floor over to Towns who discussed how he came to become a member of the Republican party.

"I was raised in a home that was very

much democratic," Towns said.

"I have always said that if they put the donkey up for president my dad would have voted for him. But when I was 20, I moved from New York and came down to the South where I found myself going to church and becoming a Christian. So I eventually found myself at a fork in the road, having to make a decision between the path of truth and the path of tradition. I stuck with what I felt to be the truth and that's how I became a part of the Republican party and found myself where I am today."

He went on to urge the students in attendance to stay true to the truth and ideals that brought them to the meeting, and what they obviously felt were dear to them.

If interested in attending meetings and hearing speakers like this, or becoming a member of the Troy University College Republicans one can like their Facebook page and watch for updates on upcoming meetings.

SAVE

continued from page 1

"By being out here on the quad with students seeing these things as they pass by, it's just creating the awareness to let people know that mental illness is something that's important and it's something that a lot of people are suffering from."

She believes promoting awareness of mental health is important because there are a lot more students dealing with it than some might think. She hopes that students will participate in these events, and that the events will promote awareness.

"It is an issue on college campuses. It's something that affects a lot of people around the world, but I think it's important for college students to be involved in these kinds of things just so they can be aware and so we can help them with something they might be dealing with," Carlee said.

"Even if it's not a mental illness, we can help them with something they're dealing with this week."

In order to promote mental health, there are several behaviors Carlee suggests.

"Have a positive attitude. Try to reduce your stress if you can. Something I like to do is make sure I find time—even if it's 15-30 minutes a day—find time for yourself to do something you enjoy," Carlee said.

"Even if it's just 30 minutes of watching your favorite TV show to kind of relax yourself and remove that stress."

"Try to keep yourself healthy by exercising, eating healthy and just taking care of yourself," Carlee said.

The SAVE Project and Personal Counseling Office provide free confidential counseling and mental health screening to students. They can be reached by phone at (334) 670-3700 and by email at save@trop.edu.

Tickets

continued from page 1

and records clerk for the Troy University Police Department, "Then we had myself, the chief and six officers to about 2,500

students and we are hearing the same complaints now that we did then."

The issue has been identified to be a problem of convenience than anything else.

Chief McCall also went on to urge students to make use of the Troy shuttle system by parking

in some of the outlying areas and riding closer to campus.

He expressed concern that if those systems are not utilized they may be scaled back, causing more students to have to drive onto campus and compounding the parking issue.

Shutdown

continued from page 1

and this debate will come up again and again."

Smith said the United States have just as little economic freedom as Greece, Portugal and Spain if nothing is fixed in the near future.

"They've overpromised money through unsustainable programs such as Medicare and Social Security," he said. "We're going to face serious consequences down the road. All of this money is going to have to come from taxation, or the government is going to have to take back some of the promises they've made. It would be nice to see politicians stand up and say, 'I'm not going to grant special favors or make problems just to win elections.'"

While estimates of the national debt have been anywhere from \$12 trillion to \$17 trillion, Smith said the actual amount is at a high \$211 trillion, which includes Social Security, Medicare and other

benefits the government has promised.

He cited an NPR report that nearly 78 million baby boomers are to collect money from Social Security and other unfunded liabilities within the next 15 to 20 years, which is about \$40,000 a person. If you multiply 78 million by \$40,000, that's more than \$3 trillion a year just to give to a small portion of the population.

Smith said he doesn't think the government is actually giving the factual debt numbers to the world.

George Crowley, another assistant professor of economics, said a lot of what the government has shut down is largely for show.

"I think the shutdown is an opportunity to see that what the government does is not very essential when it comes to day-to-day operations," Crowley said.

"While 800,000 people are being furloughed by the shutdown, it seems to go unnoticed, which means that the government must have a lot more going on. It's a pure po-

litical game that's being played in Congress."

Smith and Crowley have both signed a new petition known as the Intergenerational Financial Obligations Reform Act (The INFORM Act). According to its website, www.theinformact.org, the INFORM Act would require the government to change its accounting procedures.

Fourteen Nobel laureates in economics have signed this, along with six Troy University professors.

At the College Republicans meeting here on Tuesday, Oct. 8, Troy Towns, the Montgomery County Republican vice president, gave his views about the shutdown.

"I hope the House (of Representatives) holds, that they hold strong," he said. "I think it's going to turn for the American people's favor if they hold the line. My goal with what they do is to get the mandate for Obamacare to be held off for a year, so the next election would literally be a referendum on the bill."

Crime Log

Theft of Property Third Degree

A flash drive was stolen from University Ave at 3:15 p.m. on Oct. 1.

Lost Property

A set of keys with a red hook including Chevy keys was reported missing from Wright Hall Gym at 11 p.m. on Oct. 3.

Criminal Trespass Third Degree

A white male was arrested while intoxicated for trespassing at Veterans Memorial Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 2:27 p.m.

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Senior studies abroad in European palace

Emily Jackson
Features Editor

For Theresa Kiernan, a senior communications major from Bedford, N.H., the culture shock of moving from New Hampshire to Alabama simply was not enough. “I wanted to learn and experience more than I would by staying at my university in America and to grow as a person through my world travels.”

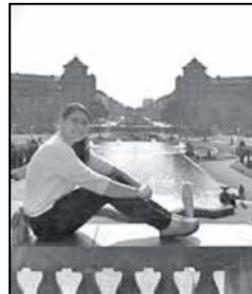
Kiernan decided to spend her senior year abroad in Mannheim, Germany where she is studying Spanish, German, media and communications.

Over an email correspondence, Kiernan explained how her studies work at the University of Mannheim.

Her classes are made up of three part lessons with the amount of students from about a hundred students to several hundred students. Her lessons include lectures, exploratory exercises and tutorial sessions led by former students. She said that this structure is different but is a great way to “integrate many students into a course.”

If the new system is not enough excitement - the location of her classes has got her excited.

“I am staying in a small city in Germany and studying in the 2nd largest Baroque palace in Europe,” Kiernan said. “The experience so far has been unreal, I can not believe I am in Europe! I



Theresa Kiernan photos

Left photo: Theresa Kiernan sits on the Wasserturm bridge in Mannheim. Right photo: Troy students Aubrey Toole (left) and Theresa Kiernan (right) visiting in Germany.

have been taking classes, meeting friends from all over the world and learning a new language.”

She said that making the adjustment to the German culture has been somewhat of a challenge, but her new experiences go way beyond the challenges.

Kiernan identified language as one of these challenges saying that before her trip she had “limited knowledge of the German language.”

“Many German students who also know English live in my apartment, and they have helped me to learn and speak more,” Kiernan said. “But it hasn’t been too hard to adjust or get what I need to in Germany, because almost everyone speaks English, so I can assimilate very easily into the culture.”

Overall, Kiernan said she would encourage other Troy students to venture out on a study abroad trip.

“This experience has opened up the world to me - literally,” Kiernan said. “It’s been amazing to meet new friends, take classes

and see sights that I have only seen in movies and books. Studying abroad is a unique experience that you cannot receive elsewhere. I would highly recommend it for every student.”

When asked how she came to be a part of Troy’s study abroad program, Kiernan explained the process with ease.

“I applied with a program called the Federation of German-American Clubs and was placed at Mannheim University to study,” Kiernan said. “There was some paperwork to do with Troy and then some legal things (passport, student visa, registration) that needed to happen when I arrived in Germany, but it went smoothly thanks to the help my advisor from my study abroad program.”

To keep account of her trip, Kiernan is keeping an online blog entitled “Swan Stories,” and she invites students and teachers to follow her blog at www.swanstories.wordpress.com.

Focusing on fit, not thin

One student’s ongoing pursuit of a healthy lifestyle

Alyse Nelson
Staff Writer

When Megan Brunson introduces herself, she looks slim and fit. She has lost 42 pounds since January and is still working toward a healthier lifestyle.

“I had been in an unhealthy relationship,” said Brunson, a senior broadcast journalism major from Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. “I put on 50 pounds. My diet was poor, everything was in excess amount. Depression was the cause.”

Brunson, previously an athlete, was disappointed in what she saw.

Upon entering a healthier relationship with her current fiancé, who is very athletic and healthy himself, she decided to make a change for the better.

“I wanted to prolong my life,” she said of her decision.

It was not always an easy journey, though.

Breaking the addiction to food was the hardest in the beginning. “Sugars and preservatives cause chemical addictions in your brain. This causes cravings,” Brunson said.

She went through the process of retraining her body. Brunson now only eats clean foods, which are generally fresh produce and nothing with preservatives or unknown ingredients.

“Clean means knowing exactly what you’re putting in your body,” she said.



Megan Brunson

However, Brunson certainly hasn’t been depriving herself. Brunson eats a healthy snack or meal every couple of hours and enjoys a lot of home cooked variations on unhealthy foods. “In a stir fry, I would take the white rice out and add brown rice and more vegetables,” she said.

She works out thirty minutes to an hour every day, never missing out on cardio and strength training.

“Lately I try to get out of the gym since it’s fall. My favorite way to exercise is to get outside and get out into nature and run somewhere.”

Brunson, who had to stay in the gym in hotter weather because of her asthma, has noticed other remarkable changes in her health. Diagnosed with a generalized anxiety disorder, she was prescribed three

medications and often found herself stressed out. “Through clean eating,” she said, “I’ve gotten off all medications. I’m a senior so I’m very involved right now, but I’m calm. People don’t realize how chemicals that you eat affect you.”

As vice president of the Advertising and Public Relations Society and a member of the Broadcasting Club and Communications Honor Society, Brunson does have her hands full.

Wanting to go into public relations, the relationship between a business or client and the public, Brunson says, “Public relations in fashion would be amazing.”

“I have so much more endurance, I’m much happier, I have so much more zest for life,” Brunson continues, on the changes she’s noticed besides mere pounds lost.

In light of all the progress that she had made, Brunson decided to make a fitness Instagram.

“Fit looks different from thin,” she said. “I wanted to lead by example.”

The Instagram, created about two months ago with the username *femininely_fit*, contains mostly progress pictures of her weight loss and exercise, meals and groceries for clean eating as well as motivational phrases.

Giving advice to fellow college students, Brunson said: “Do the majority of your grocery shopping on the outer perimeter. Foods in the middle tend to have a long shelf-life and are full of preservatives. Shop in the produce section—try something new every week. Make substitutions, like Greek yogurt for ice cream. Eliminate all the salt that you can. If you have to eat on campus, don’t eat the things that you don’t know all the ingredients of.”

“You can control what goes on your plate,” she said in reference to dining on campus as well as in restaurants.

Several pounds from her goal, Brunson is not stopping yet, and most likely won’t stop.

“The clean way of eating is the right way; it’s not a fad diet.”

“It’s a difficult journey to see your body change so much,” Brunson said, but the changes she has noticed thus far have certainly been worth it.

Troy student takes national Miss title



Kelcie Hathcock photo

Annabeth Colbert, a sophomore elementary education major from Dothan, represented Troy in the 2013 Miss National Peanut Festival and was crowned queen. “I went into the competition wanting to stay true to myself and have fun,” Colbert said. “More than that, I wanted to make Troy proud!”

Superficial real-world super powers cannot compare to powerful personal qualities

Chrissy Brown
Copy Editor

A few days ago my roommate mentioned an article that she read online that said beauty was one of our society's most useful and relevant "real life superpowers."

The article explained that as long as people found you beautiful, you could accomplish things that people who are deemed ugly or unattractive cannot. Or, at least, could not accomplish as easily.

The examples that the article gave as to how beauty is a superpower is that beauty can get

"Being confident is a superpower that every person should pull from within themselves regardless of physical attractiveness."

you free drinks at the bar and that more people will want to do things for you.

I do not understand why this is considered a superpower. I grew up reading comic books and idolizing superheroes, and none of their powers were used for solely personal gain.

In these terms, superpower means an excessive power that puts people above others who do not possess said power.

Using this definition, the article is saying that people who are beautiful are above people who are deemed unattractive.

I do not find this to be a valid argument.

In recent years the media has pitched multiple campaigns to show that there are so many different shades of beauty- how is it effective to say that one concept of beauty is a superpower?

While I agree that beauty can bring certain people amenities that are pleasing to them, there are so many other characteristics that I believe are better fit for the most useful "real life superpowers."

The slightly superficial but undeniable answer as what to the most useful su-

perpower is in modern day is money.

The possession of enough money can get you most things that you will ever need. Money can be used for the greater good, but I strive to think that this is still not the best characteristic, or superpower, that we as a race possess.

Intelligence. Ambition. Confidence. All of these qualities are real superpowers.

These are the qualities that really set people apart from the crowd and help them to enhance their lives and the lives of other people.

Spreading intelligence amongst peers will benefit the entire group of individuals. And it begins a domino effect. Once an idea is shared, it continues to spread and grow.

A person with ambition can change the world. A truly ambitious person will never accept no and can go on to do spectacular things.

Confidence is what creates friendships, networks, love, companies, charities and leaders in our society. Being confident is a superpower that every person should pull from within themselves regardless of physical attractiveness.

Confidence also spreads, creating individuals who aren't afraid to do whatever they feel is right for them and for the greater good.

So, no, beauty is not the great "real world superpower." There are so many greater and better features of us as human beings which deserve that title.

Being attractive cannot change the world. Being attractive will get you as far as you want it to get you, but I believe that our real superpowers shouldn't come from how others perceive us rather than what we can do with our natural abilities.



Seth Nicholson

Preventative measures more pressing to the safety of public than ministering during increase in rates of homicide

Faith Karwacki
Perspectives Editor

Homicide rates in Montgomery have reached an all-time high.

To combat this, the Montgomery police department reached out towards the Christian community in June to begin the Operation Good Shepherd program.

This program trains clerics in ways to approach their congregations with messages that

young men and women with coping strategies that circumvent criminal behavior, yet the Montgomery police department made a blatant violation of the requirement of the separation of religion and government to proselytize those affected by criminal behavior.

Ministering at a crime scene can be more hurtful than helpful to those who are suffering at the hands of a criminal.

Thirty-three percent of

the homicides in the past year were drug-related, multiple offenders caused another 33 percent of the homicides were related to prostitution and 42 percent were robbery-related.

Ministering at a crime scene can be more hurtful than helpful to those who are suffering at the hands of a criminal.

Thirty-three percent of

the homicides in the past year were drug-related, multiple offenders caused another 33 percent of the homicides were related to prostitution and 42 percent were robbery-related.

In an area where homicide rates are escalating at such a rapid rate, preventative measures are imperative to ending the cycle of the criminality that leads to homicide.

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EDITORIAL POLICIES

As Troy University's official student newspaper, the Tropolitan strives to serve student interests. The Perspectives page is an outlet for Tropolitan editors to question university policies that do not benefit Troy's students, praise those that do and call attention to national and state issues that relate to students.

Editorials stand as the official, corporate opinion of the Tropolitan. Our opinions are not influenced by campus organiza-

tions or societies, university administration or political parties. The first copy of the Tropolitan is free to any student or employee of Troy University. Each additional copy costs \$1.

Guest Columns

The Tropolitan encourages students, faculty and staff at Troy University to express opinions in a guest column of 500-700 words. Dissenting opinions are

welcomed, but not all expressions are the sole opinion of their author and do not reflect the beliefs of the Tropolitan.

Letters to the Editor

The Tropolitan welcomes letters from students, faculty, staff and non-Troy affiliated persons. Dissenting opinions and corrections are welcomed.

The Tropolitan does not exclusively print letters favorable to the newspaper.

Letters to the editor must be signed by the author, and a phone number must be included.

All submissions must be word-processed and emailed to the Tropolitan by 5 p.m. on Monday. All submissions may not be published.

Submissions bashing groups or individuals on the basis of race, gender, age, ethnic group, orientation or religious belief will not be printed.

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Band to perform classics

Ngoc Vo
Staff Writer

To kick off the season, the Troy Symphony Band will present a masterworks concert, which is a concert performance of significant compositions.

According to Mark Walker, the director of bands, the concert will include mostly classic symphonies and some other significant pieces that may become classics in the future.

"It's the monument of band literature," Walker said about the center piece of the concert – "Music for Prague 1968." The piece is a programmatic work written by composer Karel Husa during the Cold War. Walker said, for bands, playing "Music for Prague 1968" is like playing Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor for an orchestra.

According to Walker, this is the first time the symphony band has ever played this masterwork.

"In some slow parts,



Matthew Dunne photo

Mark Walker, the director of bands, practices with the symphony band in Stewart Hall, the former campus dining hall. The symphony band is preparing various classic pieces of music.

you can even hear the Russian tanks coming to take over," said Mitchell Thomas, a freshman music education major from Cairo, Ga.

Thomas said "Music for Prague 1968" is a diffi-

cult piece, but he enjoyed learning to play it.

"Fan Faranade" is the newest song in the concert. The university commissioned the band to produce the song, and they did the world premiere in

February 2013.

"Directing the band is a challenging job, but it's very worthwhile," Walker said. "I absolutely love it." The symphony band has practiced for the concert since the beginning of the

semester every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"It's not really time consuming," Thomas said. "Practice is what you make of it. It's all about wanting to see the band as a whole— the best it could

be. You have to find your will and determination to be what the band needs you to be. That's hard work and loyalty to your fellow musicians."

Walker also believes that band members are not as overloaded as many people think.

"Students who are the busiest are also the most successful," Walker said.

"I loved that, unlike the high school environment, Troy's band brings a sense of professionalism and understanding," Thomas said. "Here everybody is already an excellent player."

Walker is very pleased with this year's band.

The band members meet in Stewart Hall, the former campus dining hall, to practice.

Upon its estimated completion within the year, Long Hall will house the symphony band.

The concert will be at Crosby Theater on Oct. 15. Admission is free for Troy students. This is also a passport event.

'Gravity' floats away from rivals

Zachary Winslett
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Rarely does a film feel as immersive as Alfonso Cuarón's "Gravity," a space drama starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney.

"Gravity" pits its characters against the humbling odds of space catastrophe in a visceral, visual way that has been mostly unseen since "2001: A Space Odyssey."

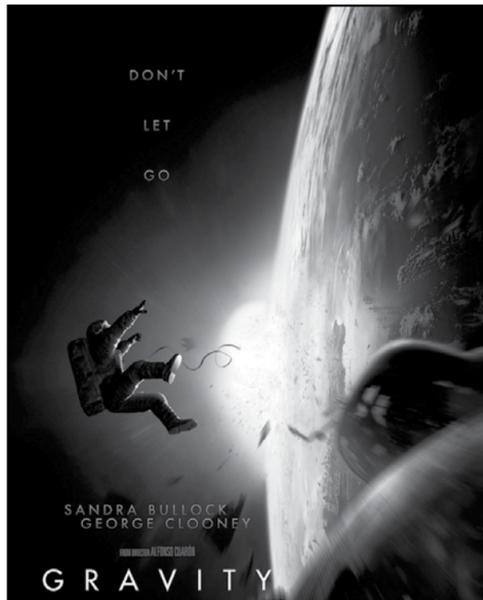
The film's stars— Bullock and Clooney— are alone the on-screen actors, as the rest of the cast serves only as voiceovers. The two-actor tandem powerfully uses the lack of other characters to great effect, while being contrastingly captured in front the largest backdrop of them all, space.

The film begins with first-time mission specialist Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) and veteran astronaut Matt Kowalski (George Clooney) on a service mission for the Hubble Space Telescope. The unassuming astronauts exchange dialogue about the grandeur and stomach-spinning awkwardness of working in space, as Kowalski charms mission control with outlandish, very-Texan stories while playing country music.

As Kowalski boyishly floats in space and eerily mentions (with a dash of dramatic irony) that he has a "bad feeling" about the mission, the astronauts receive a message from mission control warning that a barrage of space debris, caused by Russian satellite demolition, is headed their way. As the protagonists barely survive with their lives, Stone is launched into the depths of space with no friction to halt her momentum.

After the barrage passes, and after a frantic Stone calms herself and manages to find landmarks in a three-dimensional space, Kowalski performs the type of space-cowboy heroics that come to be expected of his rather archetypal character. Using his jetpack, he saves Stone and tethers the two together.

The tether between Kowalski and Stone serves as



filmmonic.com photo

"Gravity" feels more akin to a story of human survival and willpower than a sci-fi thriller.

more than a physical link; it serves as a symbolic reminder that the two astronauts have only one another in the vast expanse. In a way, it is their personal source of gravity.

After being tethered together, the two stranded astronauts begin a quest for survival, setting their destination for escape pods on a space station. As the two jostle through space, the only source of theatrical energy is tension (along with them colliding with spacefaring objects), and by god there is a lot of it.

The dialogue in "Gravity" isn't particularly memo-

orable, and neither are the random bites of backstory, which are supposed to make viewers feel attached to the characters. They are quite sad, but, in the end, they're rather shallow; however, they don't detract from the quality of the experience. It would have been more desirable if Cuarón had decided to either flesh out his characters or adhere to an even more silent experience, though.

"Gravity" is full of visual brilliance. The cinematography takes advantage of the full plane of space. There are beautiful— albeit slightly nauseating— scenes of rotating and floating, while the astronauts abide the momentum of Kowalski's jetpack and their snatching tether.

What's more remarkable is that it's even better in 3-D.

As a matter of fact, Cuarón's film, and its grand stage, cannot be viewed fully in justice without the 3-D effects.

Throughout the movie, "Gravity" has short stints of Stone's first-person view, and this makes the movie reminiscent of an experience in a video game. Its journey motif is well complemented by the first-person perspective, and moviegoers will feel the stress of Stone's trek from point "A" to point "B."

That's part of what makes "Gravity" special, too. It's a very linear journey despite its spacious surroundings, and that linearity is befitting of such a simple struggle with such definite consequences.

The film's music feels familiar to this genre, but it's solid. The moments of suffocating silence the movie uses to portray the terrifying vacuum of space are the highlights of its use of sound.

The gorgeous cinematography alone would score "Gravity" high marks, but the astronauts' breathtaking battle for survival, which isn't inhibited by a large amount of stuffy allegory, is compelling and immersive. "Gravity" is the best movie to come out thus far in 2013, and it's one of the best space dramas in recent memory.

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Superheroes with powers vs. superheroes without powers

Chase Robinson
Copy Editor

Superheroes are a staple of pop culture. Costumed crusaders of various shapes and sizes have been leaping from the presses since Superman made his debut in 1938.

A basic dichotomy has existed in the realm of superheroes since the early days of comics. There are superheroes with superpowers like Superman and Thor, and there are superheroes without superpowers like Batman and Iron Man.

Fans of the genre frequently argue about which sort of hero is better, but the criteria they use to determine this can vary.

Some might argue that the efficiency with which these masked heroes fight crime is the most important factor. However, these are characters, not vacuum cleaners. Job-efficiency doesn't sell stories. If it did we would find ourselves reading about top-notch accountants and charming salespeople.

Some might also argue that the mortality of the non-powered heroes makes them more interesting. Batman and Iron Man seem to be putting more at risk when they swoop in to save the day, but readers know that in a few issues things will be back to normal.

Heroes like Superman, Batman, Spider-Man and Iron Man are too popular to permanently kill off. Clark Kent, Bruce Wayne, Peter Parker and Tony Stark will always be back regardless of how powerful they are. You can't keep an icon down for long.

What makes a superhero great is how interesting they are. Readers look to comic books for escape from their everyday world, but they also want to identify with some of the problems that their heroes face.

The heroes who have great powers and great burdens speak to us on a different level than those who fight with grit and cunning alone.

Spider-Man has great powers, but he is still burdened with the everyday troubles of a young man along with the huge responsibility that comes with his powers.

Powers don't make the lives of these heroes easier. Instead they complicate matters. Spider-Man has to balance his duty as a hero with the challenges of his life as Peter Parker.

Doctor Manhattan of Alan Moore's

"Watchmen" is all-powerful, and he still struggles to maintain relationships and understand humanity.

In "Kurt Busiek's Astro City" a hero called Samaritan functions as a Superman stand-in. Samaritan has many of Superman's amazing powers, but he's too busy saving the world to live his own life and is constantly aware of the tragedies he can't prevent.

These superheroes allow us to escape into a world where anything is possible. In comics there are invisible jets, gorillas bent on world domination, magic hammers, time travellers and psychics.

Despite all these far-fetched elements, an awkward teenager with the powers of a spider is still an awkward teenager.

This tells the reader that problems are inescapable. When heroes who can fly through the sky and lift cars with one arm still have problems and flaws it's comforting.

Super-powered heroes have a special place in our culture. The tell audiences that having problems is OK. They allow audiences to escape the mundane world around them while still addressing the sort of problems most people face every day.

Devin Smith
Cardinal Rule Editor

I understand the obvious appeal of being a superhero with legitimate superpowers.

I would have loved to have been born with the ability to fly. If nothing else it would have saved me thousands on gas.

For those who are familiar with "Injustice: Gods Among Us," the DC comic turned console juggernaut, it's pretty obvious that, given the right (or wrong) motivation, Superman could wipe out anyone with a punch.

While I love the idea of the Man of Steel raging on the DC universe in its entirety, does having all those powers really make him a better superhero?

He may be more powerful, but I think there is an underlying reason why the box offices booms when Iron Man or Batman grace the silver screen.

The three Iron Man movies have raked in \$1.4 billion, and the last several Batman films have made a combined \$2 billion. The entire collection of Superman movies has made \$809.2 million dollars, and the Superman franchise had a head start.

The original Superman movie hit on Dec. 15, 1978, long before the superhero craze made an impact on theaters.

Superman was the flagship hero during the Golden Age of Comics, when an insanely overpowered alien like Superman was fresh and different.

In the modern age people want a hero they can relate to.

A hero with powers has to rely solely on his life story; a hero without has his life story coupled with the human aspect of mortality that we all deal with.

The reason I've been an Iron Man fan since I was very young is the same reason I would assume most children don the mask or cape of any given superhero, because I wanted to be him.

Much like now-famous Georgia Tech sophomore Nick Selby, I wanted to build an Iron Man suit, and I believed it was legitimately possible.

That doesn't mean that Iron Man's suit would be easy to replicate by any means. My point is that superheroes without powers are basically just like us.

Granted, Stark and Wayne each inherited a small fortune, but there is something unmistakably unique about the distinction between having powers and finding the means to level the playing field yourself.

The argument could be made that many with powers live with the same burdens as those without, but apart from those who gained them later in life (Spider-Man, Fantastic Four) it isn't reasonable because they are superhuman.

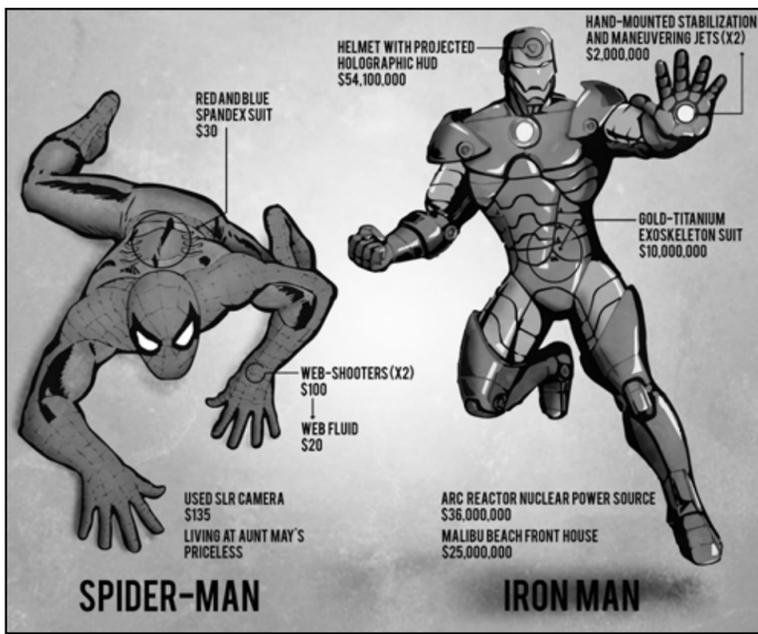
Being raised with powers is not the same as having to adapt without, which is usually preceded by loads of adversity that he or she had to face without the advantage of powers to assist them.

Iron Man can fight gods and there have been rumblings among fans for decades that Batman could beat Superman.

Superheroes with powers are the ones we wish we could be. Superheroes without powers are the ones we believe we could be.

Those without powers must use cunning, intelligence, grit and even human intuition in order to protect and save whatever happens to need that hero's services.

Also, I'm pretty sure that if Lex Luthor can build a suit to fight Superman, then Tony Stark could figure out a way to do it in a much more efficient and effective manner.



The costs of being a super hero with powers versus the cost of being a hero without powers. It is obvious it is cheaper to have powers than pay.

Trojan Treasure: Documentary Club, produces new film

Jill Odum
Variety Editor

The eighth Trojan Treasure is the Troy University Documentary Club (TUDC), which was just formed in the middle spring semester 2013 by Chad Downs, a senior marketing major from Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

TUDC focuses on two things: watching eye-opening documentaries on various subjects, discussing them afterwards and producing documentaries.

The organization meets every Tuesday in Bibb Graves Room 129 at 7 p.m. It welcomes all students, especially those interested in learning about normally unheard of topics. It is especially suited for individuals interested in practicing filming, journalism, marketing or communication.

The Documentary Club's mission is to provide a platform for exchanging ideas and information with other like-minded students.

When asked about why he created the club, Downs said: "50 percent was out of the personal love I have for documentary films and the critical knowledge that it has brought me. The other 50 percent was because I wanted to start something that I could grow and work on during my college career."

The group created a film over the summer that asked the question "what does Troy mean to you?" The group interviewed professors, students and even the Chancellor.

The film served as an opportunity for Downs and TUDC's cameraman, Josh Lewis, a junior graphic design major from Kansas City, Mo., to get acquainted with each other during the film-making process. Due to technical issues, the documentary is still in the editing phase.

The club will start its YouTube channel when its first film is finished.

TUDC has started production on its second film. The film will look at disability awareness.

It will focus on the struggle of disabled Troy University students through personal interviews. It will examine what problems disabled students have on campus, disability awareness organizations and what Troy's administration is doing to create a more disability-friendly campus.

On Tuesday Oct. 8, the organization discussed its next fundraising event, the new club banner and then watched an astronaut-guided tour of the International Space Station.

The group has already had half a dozen meetings and three on-campus fundraisers. It is TUDC's goal to complete the disability documentary and work with more sponsors.

Dues are \$10 a year. The club consists of 10-13 members because of it being new, but Downs hopes it will to continue to grow.

Those who wish to get in touch with the Troy

University Documentary Club can email Chad Downs at chaddowns@yahoo.com or find them on Facebook.

The Trojan Treasures section features a new or unheard of organization each week. If you want to have your group mentioned, then please email TropVariety@gmail.com and explain what your organization does, when you meet and where and some of the things your plans to do during the semester.



Hannah Crews photo

The Documentary Club met Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m. in Trojan Center Room 212.

Word Games

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- EVELORAT
- ZZZZ IT
- DR. DO

How to play:

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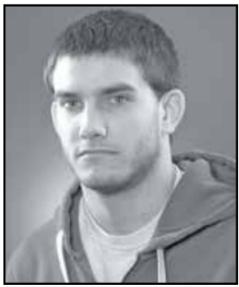
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The return of Derrick Rose: it's about time

Devin Smith
Cardinal Rule Editor

The king has finally made his long awaited return to basketball fans everywhere. No, I'm not referring to the self-proclaimed king who can be found gracing the cover NBA 2k14. I'm talking about the youngest MVP in the storied history of the NBA, Chicago's own Derrick Rose. Last Saturday, after 526 long days of rehab on a torn anterior cruciate ligament suffered in the first round of the 2011 playoffs, the windy city assassin suited up for competition in one of the most highly anticipated returns in recent sports memory. Over that period of time there was an abundance of speculation and criticism sent in the direction of Rose, ranging from the long-term effects of the injury to his mental health and if he would ever return to past form.

So after two preseason games you're probably asking what is the verdict on 'The Return?' He's better. A lot better. Rose is on record saying that during his rehab process he gained 10 pounds of muscle and five inches to his already ridiculous vertical, and it is already evident in his play. The mannerisms that gained him the nickname 'Poodini' are back, but different. He is more fluid, more explosive and, at times, has seemed even more confident attacking the basket than in years past. Couple that with the fact that he has done such an immense amount of shooting over the past 18 months that he expects to be a "great shooter," and what you have is an even more dangerous Derrick Rose. He has had trouble keeping possession of the ball. See **Rose**, page 7

Playing with passion

Trojan volleyball takes on Georgia State at home on Friday

Lindsey Schoewe
Volleyball Beat Writer

The Troy volleyball team (7-12) handed Louisiana-Lafayette a straight set loss on Friday at Trojan Arena but fell short to UALR on Monday in a five set shootout at home.

The Trojans took on Louisiana-Lafayette's Ragin' Cajuns on Friday at home and were able to get the victory in three straight sets (25-20, 25-21 and 25-21).

Junior outside hitter Marija Zelenovic finished the match with a team-leading 12 kills, while Trojan senior setter Alexandra Alexander recorded a double-double with her 27 assists and team-high 16 digs.

Zelenovic and senior libero Courtney Cohen both reached double digit dig totals with 10 each.

Originally a Sunday match at noon, the 11 a.m. Monday match ended with Troy losing a five set thriller to the University of Arkansas Little Rock (22-25, 26-24, 21-25, 25-18 and 9-15).

The first set was back and forth until the end that UALR won 25-22 but Troy answered with a second set win 26-24 to even the match at 1-1.

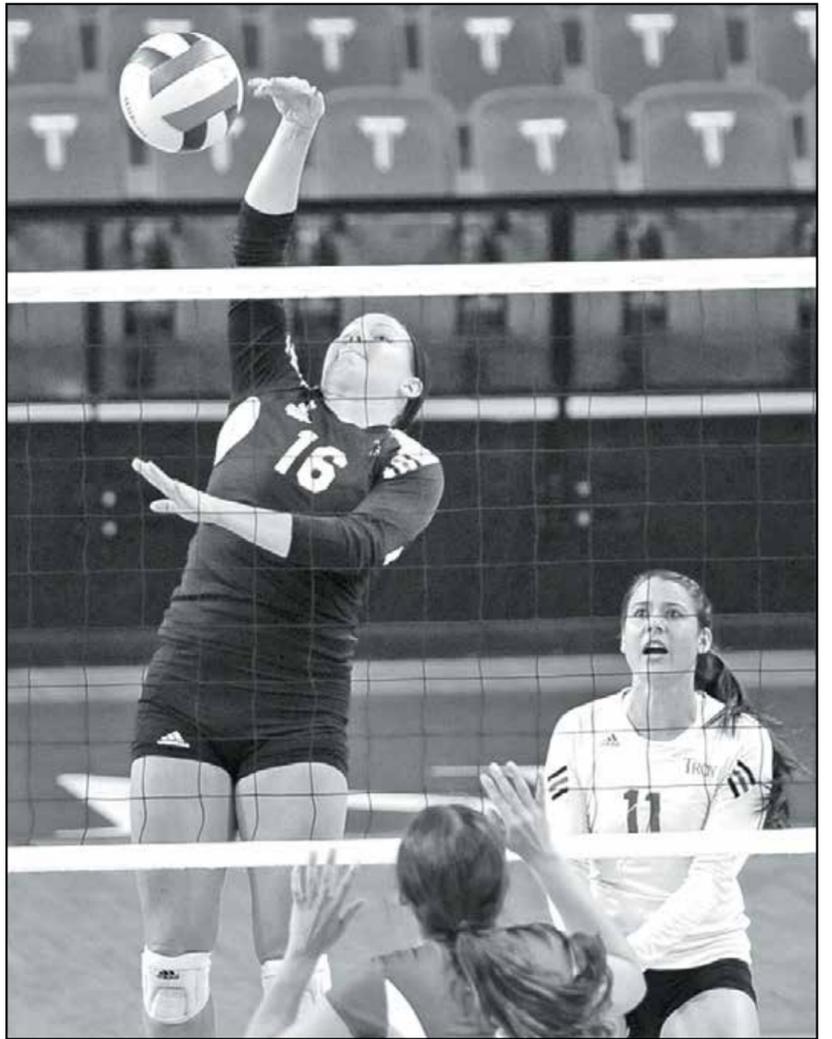
After the intermission, UALR came back playing like it had done in the first two sets but Troy kept fighting despite falling 25-21 in set three taking a 2-1 match lead.

The fourth set was critical because Troy had to win or the match was over, but something had changed about UALR.

The Arkansas Little Rock Trojans were suddenly flat in the fourth set, letting balls drop and making mistakes that Troy capitalized on to win the set 25-18 even though UALR surged late to trim the lopsided deficit.

With the match knotted up at 2-2, it came down to a fifth and final set to determine the winner.

After struggling in the fourth set, UALR came out ready to play taking the final set

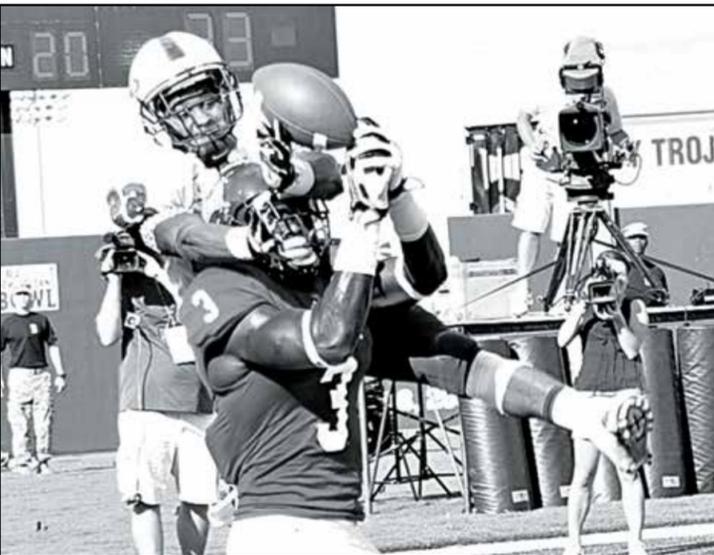


Blair Winston (Left) kills the ball Monday and Courtney Cohen (Right) watches. Joshua Thurston photo

15-9. For Troy this loss in five sets is already its fifth loss that required all five sets this

season, but the team is staying positive. "We are not going to allow any of these See **Volleyball**, page 7

'Thank God for Eric Thomas'

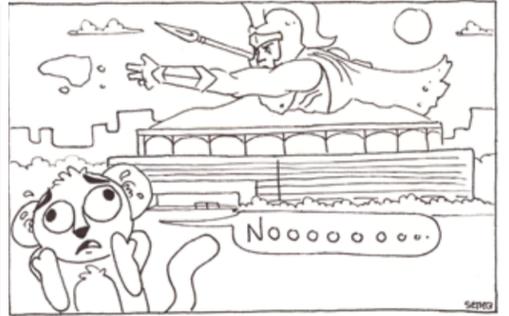


Eric Thomas' game winning touchdown catch against South Alabama capped a memorable homecoming game.

Troy football eyes first road win of the year over Georgia State in Atlanta

Megan Phillips
Staff Writer

After a narrow 34-33 victory against South Alabama on Saturday at home, the Troy football (3-3) team now looks to game seven of the 2013 season against new Sun Belt opponent Georgia State in the Georgia Dome on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 2:30 p.m.



April Irvin photo and Seth Nicholson cartoon

Georgia State comes into this game with a losing record, having no wins so far in 2013, but that doesn't mean that they are a losing team to Troy Head Coach Larry Blakeney.

"I know they haven't won a game," Blakeney said. "But if you saw them on tape, you wouldn't think that they were a winless team."

See **Football**, page 7

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