

## What's Inside:

"The Big Read" inspires unique altered book installation.  
A&E, pg. 5



Troy still not completely tobacco-free.  
Variety, pg. 6



# TROPOLITAN

Troy University's Official Student Newspaper

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## Sex health report card

Lilly Casolaro  
Staff Writer

Troy University has been ranked 137 out of 140 colleges and universities, placing Troy in the bottom 10, according to the Trojan Brand Condoms sponsored 2014 Sexual Health Report Card.

Student health centers at universities across the U.S. were graded on services across 11 separate categories, including the following:

1. Hours of operation
2. Allow drop-ins or require appointments for student scheduling
3. Quality of sexual health information and resources on website
4. Contraceptive availability — free or at cost
5. Condom availability — free or at cost
6. HIV testing on-site (on/off campus, cost)
7. STI testing on-site (on/off campus, cost)
8. Lecture/outreach programs and student peer groups for sexual health education
9. Sexual assault programs, resources or services
10. Overall website usability and quality
11. Extra credit

According to the report card, released

by Sperling's BestPlaces, an independent research firm, sponsored by Trojan Condoms, Oregon State University is ranked No. 1. Oregon took the lead from Princeton, as the top University for providing resources and information about sexual health for students. Oregon State had a significant jump in the rankings from the 2013 study, where it was placed at No. 26.

"Oregon State University has shown dedication to improving its resources and worked hard over the past year to get back into the top 10 and come out on top," said Bert Sperling, president of Sperling's BestPlaces.

"With high scores in condom availability, student health center hours of operation and the usability and quality of their sexual health website, the campus is a model for schools nationwide," according to Sperling's BestPlaces website.

The University of Alabama was ranked No. 30, Auburn University was No. 98, The University of Alabama at Birmingham was ranked 120 and The University of South Alabama was ranked No. 123, based on their promotion of sexual health for students. Troy remains at spot 137, the same ranking as in 2013, indicating lack of progress toward providing students with sexual health awareness.

See **Sex**, page 2

### 2014 SEXUAL HEALTH REPORT CARD

#### How do Alabama colleges stack up?



30. University of Alabama



98. Auburn University



120. University of Alabama at Birmingham



123. University of South Alabama



137. Troy University

Taylor Bowser graphic

## Alpha Week celebrated



April Irvin photos

Jade Adams (left top), a junior social work major from Enterprise; Brionna June (left bottom), a graduate biomedical sciences major from Atlanta; Erin Woods (right), a junior human services major from Birmingham, and all members of "Black Ice" participated in an Alpha Week event Tuesday, Nov. 4, in Wright Hall Gym, near the Natatorium. Alpha Phi Alpha hosted Alpha Week, a week devoted to the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. The major event was "Stroll like an Alpha," which was a step competition that showcased different teams of women. The team that won the competition was named "Black Ice."

## Veterans' Week will end with 'Ruck-a-thon'

Destiny Hosmer  
Staff Writer

The Troy for Troops Center, Student Veterans Association and SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society will be hosting a "Ruck-a-thon" to culminate Veterans' Week.

Veterans' Week will begin on Monday, Nov. 10, and will end Saturday, Nov. 15.

The Ruck-a-thon is a way for the military on campus — active duty, reservist or ROTC — and others to support veterans. This is the first year for the event.

Phillip Johnson, a senior social science education major from Paxton, Florida, a nine-year active-duty Marine, ROTC Cadet, National Guard member and treasurer for SALUTE, said that the event is something to help military supporters get a feel for what those in the military experience.

"We wanted to give the university something they haven't had before," Johnson said. "So, we came up with the idea of a walk-a-thon, but with ruck packs. We would have students put on a military-style ruck and walk around the university. We wanted to give the students the short experience of what it's like to have that pack on and have that camaraderie."

Gates open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15, for the six-hour Ruck-a-thon. The event will kick off at 10:30 a.m. on the Troy University Track.

Participation is open to any team of 4-10 people and the entry fee is \$10 per person. One team member will be required to carry a 20-pound ruck during the event.

"We didn't want to limit people to small groups," Johnson said. "We wanted bigger groups. That way, you could have more fun as a team. They will carry a 20-pound ruck, which probably weighs less than most students' backpack. So, they may not even notice the weight."

There will be mini-games for those who are not participating in the "rucking" portion of the event. These games, thought of by the members of Troy for Troops, are military-themed and will be held throughout the Ruck-a-thon. The awards will be given at the end for the teams who covered the most distance and raised the most money. There will also be door prizes and other giveaways.

The event's hosts, the Student Veterans Association and the SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society, are organizations aimed at

See **Troops**, page 2

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## Trojans in Disguise

*Baseball team dresses for Halloween and philanthropy*



Caitlin Collins photo

Troy University's baseball team played a game in costume in celebration of Halloween. The game was called "Trojans in Disguise." In order to dress up, players had to bring canned goods for the Pike County Human Resource Center. The food drive was sponsored by Troy University Student Athletic Advisory Committee. The two teams who played in costumes were the pitchers and the hitters. The hitters won 6-4 in 10 innings. Managers got to hit at the end of the game. The game was the first for the program.

## Students host Festival of Lights

### Indian Student Association celebrates Diwali

Josh Richards  
Staff Writer

Indian culture came alive last Friday as Troy University celebrated the Diwali festival, an event sponsored by the Indian Student Association. The event included typical Diwali dances, Indian food and music.

Known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali typically falls at the end of October or the beginning of November. Celebrations can last up to five days.

Diwali is the most well-known Hindu celebration and symbolizes the victory of light over spiritual darkness.

Earl Ingram, senior vice chancellor of academic affairs, and Darlene Schmurr-Stewart, dean of international student services, attended the event. Ingram gave a welcome speech on behalf of the chancellor and Troy University.

"On one level, a good university represents what Diwali signifies," Ingram said. "A good university will shine the light of knowledge and, as you become our graduates, you'll be able to project (that light) all over the world. This will hasten the triumph of good over evil and bring hope where now there may be despair."

This year's turnout, according to ISA, was much greater than past festivals.

Chamkor Rooprai, a senior computer science major from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, said: "Last year we had it at the Baptist Campus Ministries building, and, if I remember, we had around 140 people. This time it's even bigger, which I am glad to see. Thank you all for being so wonderful and supportive."

Suman Kumar, associate professor of computer science and adviser of ISA, explained some of what Diwali represents. He also emphasized the festival's importance in breaking down cultural barriers.

"Diwali is a festival of great importance to millions of Indians," Kumar said. "I'm proud to be a part of this celebration of good over evil, light over darkness. It gives us an opportunity to build a greater understanding of differing cultural backgrounds. This occasion being held in Troy symbolizes cultural ties between India and the university, and hopefully progress towards world peace."

Sama Tejpal Reddy, a computer science graduate student from Hyderabad, India, and president of ISA, was pleased with the turnout. He said that ISA is important for Indian students.

"We have accomplished a lot," he said. "And the university has been really helpful. It's almost like a home away from home for us."

## Troops

continued from page 1

supporting student veterans. The money raised from this event will go to two other veteran-affiliated organizations.

The Wounded Warrior Project, founded in 2003, aims to honor and empower wounded warriors and their families. The vision of the organization is "to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history."

The goal of the Lone Survivor Foundation, founded in 2010, is to restore, empower and renew hope for our wounded service members and their families through health, wellness and therapeutic support.

The Troy for Troops Center will also be hosting a number of other events throughout the week in honor of Veterans' Week.

There will be an awareness event, which will cover basic issues like veterans in college. There will be a discussion panel of veterans who are teachers and students held afterward.

There will be tables with information about the military, where students can participate in mini-games that are based on military exercises.

There will be a movie showing of "The Hornet's Nest," with a discussion afterward.

There will also be a dog tag fundraiser. Tags will be sold for \$8 and anything with letters can be put on the tags. The order will be sent off, and those who buy a dog tag will be notified and asked to pick them up at the Troy for Troops Center.

"We're trying to get students who may not be aware of all the issues that affect veterans informed on them," Johnson said. Many of our teachers and students are veterans, and many people may not be aware of that."

There are many posters around campus with taglines for the event, such as "Keep Calm and Ruck On" and "Big or Small, Ruck Them All."

The deadline to register for the Ruck-a-Thon is Nov 13. There are currently 10 packs left. If you wish to register a team for the event or become a sponsor, contact 334-670-3856 or stop by Room 122 in the Trojan Center.



Jennifer Carlisle photo

Alex Nelson, a sophomore math education major from Pell City, signs a banner for the Troy for Troops "Ruck-a-Thon," a Veterans' Week event raising money for the Wounded Warrior Project and the Lone Survivor Foundation. The Ruck-a-Thon will end a week of events aiming at raising awareness of issues that veterans face, including veterans in school. This is the first year for the event, which was created to help those in the community to have an experience that military personnel would have.

## Sex

continued from page 1

Charlotte Petonic, the University of Alabama's assistant director for health promotion and wellness, said that peer education is one way the university promotes good sexual health.

"We have about 130 peer educators that help with sexual health promotion," Petonic said. Peer educators are connected with Project Health, which, according to its website, is "a student-led organization that the University of Alabama campus recognizes as the go-to source for innovative peer health education."

Auburn University, Oregon State University, University of South Alabama and UAB did not comment.

The importance of being aware of sexual health is made evident by the escalation of reported STDs in Alabama in people ages 15-19 and 20-24. In 2008, there were about 10,000 reported cases of gonorrhea in the same year and about 25,000 cases of chlamydia, according to the Alabama Public Health website.

One part of sexual health awareness is education on condom use.

"Condoms provide greater protection against diseases such as chlamydia and gonorrhea, because they are a barrier against the secre-

tions that cause them," according to the American Sexual Health Association website.

The CDC reports in 2009 that there were 1.5 million cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea, the two most sexually transmitted diseases. The age groups most affected by chlamydia and gonorrhea are 15-19-year-olds and 20-24-year-olds. According to a study done by Trojan Condoms, "Sixty-four percent of college age adults reported using a condom the last time they had sex compared to 54 percent of those ages 23-34."

Lack of availability of information and resources contributes to the rising numbers of STDs, especially among college students and young adults.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, "The higher prevalence of STDs among adolescents also may reflect multiple barriers to accessing quality STD prevention services, including lack of health insurance or ability to pay, lack of transportation, discomfort with facilities and services designed for adults, and concerns about confidentiality."

While condoms cannot 100 percent prevent or cure sexually transmitted diseases nor reduce likelihood of pregnancy, being protected decreases chances of transmission and conception.

"Condoms are reliable, easy to

use, and when used, they are 98 percent effective in preventing unintended pregnancies and STIs when used consistently and correctly," based on ASHA resource material.

To promote sexual health and awareness, there is a downloadable Sexual Health E-Toolkit, which contains fact-based insight and resources about sexual health at <http://www.factsaboutcondoms.com/index.php>, found under the Resources tab.

The top 10 schools ranked according to accessibility of sexual health resources and information available to students on campus include:

1. Oregon State University
2. The University of Texas at Austin
3. University of Maryland-College Park
4. University of Arizona
5. Stanford University
6. University of Michigan
7. Brown University
8. Columbia University in the City of New York
9. Syracuse University
10. University of Wisconsin

For a full 2014 health report card rating, visit [http://www.bestplaces.net/docs/studies/sexual\\_health\\_report\\_card](http://www.bestplaces.net/docs/studies/sexual_health_report_card), and for more information on condom use, visit <http://www.factsaboutcondoms.com/index.php>.

All students are welcome!

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## Band to bring new sound to Troy

**Alyse Nelson**  
Features Editor

As the DJ plays in another part of the bar, Color Collective members set up equipment, perform sound checks and eventually introduce themselves.

The crowd at the Front Porch warms up to the set list consisting of covers of familiar songs peppered with originals.

With the lead singer dressed in Chacos and the drummer sporting a hot pink beard, the group of guys looks as different as the musical influences they cite.

The group has come together with the same goal: to bring new music to Troy and grow as musicians.

Now gathered around a living room, equipment stacked in the corner, the band pauses a video game to conduct an interview.

"OK, guys, we have to answer questions now!" exclaims lead singer Andrew Spry, a junior criminal justice major from Dothan.

"We want to introduce a variety of music to the area," Spry begins. "We feel it's mostly country (currently in the area)."

All four members have performed in other groups or with different lineups, but they recently became Color Collective.

Spry and guitarist Sam Nolen, a junior social sciences major from Bonifay, Florida, began working together during their sophomore year at Troy.

"Andrew (and I) had collaborated during the year with song ideas and shared very similar tastes in music," Nolen said. "At the beginning of this semester, we found Alex and Randall, and after playing together we said, 'Hey, let's make this something!'"

Drummer Alex Tjoland, a junior music industry major from Warner Robins, Georgia, met bassist Randall Bassham, a freshman marine biology major from Hatton, through Troy University's band

POPulus.

The group met through mutual friends and has been creating its own sound since then.

"Alex is hands down the best working drummer that this university has seen," Nolen said. "He can easily play any genre with no hang-ups, and the same goes for Randall, whose bass playing is solid and drives everything home. Andrew plays a great creative force for the band and pushes our ideas forward."

"We all have different influences," Spry said, citing The Strokes and Jimi Hendrix.

"I think as a musician you have to collaborate with other people because otherwise the creative process becomes stagnant, you know?" Nolen said, mentioning that he is influenced by a mix of '70s rock and today's indie scene.

Tjoland references Rush, while Bassham said, "My bass lines are Green Day."

"I guess indie," Tjoland responds when asked to define Color Collective by a single genre.

"I like improving my own skills," said Bassham as he discussed playing with the others.

"He used to suck, but now he's just mediocre," Tjoland jokes.

"My favorite part is just making mistakes," says Spry. "It always turns into something cooler than what was planned."

When asked about the band's plans for the future, Color Collective expresses high hopes.

"We're strong enough to go somewhere with this, but like it is around here, it'll be hard," said Spry. "In the next year, I hope to see us getting more gigs in the Panama City Beach and Birmingham areas."

Also in the works for the group is an original EP.

Recording begins soon, and the final product will include five songs, but the beginning of their music career together



Alyse Nelson photo

**Singer Andrew Spry (left), bassist Randall Bassham (middle), guitarist Sam Nolen (right) and drummer Alex Tjoland (on ground) make up Color Collective, a new self-described indie band on campus.**

has not been described as glamorous by any of the band mates.

"It isn't good for my health," Tjoland said of their frequent fast-food trips, having stopped at Burger King four times during four hours of travel.

Also not good for their health are some noxious odors in the studio during practice that have affected the band.

After their most recent performance

at the amphitheater on campus was interrupted by campus police and given a curfew, the band hopes to have more like their first at the Front Porch on Oct. 23.

"Look for us at local bars," said Spry, mentioning that more gigs may be in the works.

Color Collective also has a Facebook page with information and updates on the band.

## Campus Kitchens launches at Troy

**Alyse Nelson**  
Features Editor

Troy University is the 40th campus nationwide to partner with Campus Kitchens in an attempt to fight hunger in the local community.

"It's a tremendous example of people working together to accomplish something important," said Jonathon Cellon, coordinator of learning initiatives, at the Launch Ceremony Oct. 30.

During the establishment of the program, Troy took tips from Auburn University, the only other college in Alabama that is involved with the program.

"While we are celebrating what is happening at Troy," said Matt Schnarr, partnership director of the Campus Kitchens Projects, "we have been celebrating since our inception in 2001."

Through transforming food waste on other campuses, Campus Kitchens has provided over 200 million meals, or 300 million pounds of food, since its launch.

Troy's initial goal for the program, which began this week, is to provide 60 families with meals weekly.

The meals will be composed of unused food from the dining hall. This does not include uneaten food off plates, only what is left over in the back of

the house.

Ibrahim Yildirim, general manager of Sodexo at Troy, cites this as a reason to begin reducing food waste.

"Less waste on your plate means more in the back," said Yildirim. This will leave more food to go to those in need.

The meals will be prepared and delivered by students to the local Head Start to go to low-income families.

"I feel extremely confident that this program is in good hands and will continue to grow," Schnarr said.

"This was not by their choice, and we have the ability to help them," said Olivia Melton of the families in need. Melton is a sophomore math and economics major from Orange Beach and a Campus Kitchens representative.

"There's people in our own community that are struggling like this," said Ryan Cole, junior political science major from Athens and Campus Kitchens representative. "If you have a passion, go after it — you can make a difference."

Hoping to expand the program as time goes on, the Troy leadership team for Campus Kitchens encourages more students to get involved.

"Help us to help this community," Cole said.

## Food prices too high?

**Alyse Nelson**  
Features Editor

As the final weeks of fall lie before Troy, many students are finding their meal plans to be depleting more quickly now that the semester is ending.

"They only give us \$250, and that doesn't last," said Anthony Harris, a sophomore nursing major from Montgomery, of students living off campus.

However, students' meal plans may have been diminishing faster than necessary.

A recent look at the prices of food

items being sold in Herb's Place shows a disparity between what is being charged on campus and what items are retailing for elsewhere.

To give an example, a snack container of about 2 ounces of Sabra hummus and 15 pretzel chips costs \$5.39 at Herb's place.

At Walmart, a 1-pound, 1-ounce tub of name-brand hummus and a 12-ounce bag of name-brand pretzels can be purchased for a total of \$5.46.

This is a snack almost 10 times larger, for the same price.

"I don't like that my Flex Dollars are used so fast because everything

is so expensive," said Corina Cox, a sophomore English major from Los Fresnos, Texas.

From a Snickers candy bar marked up \$1.26 higher than Walmart's prices to a TV dinner costing \$3.44 more, there was not a single item tested at Herb's that was priced the same or lower at Walmart.

The majority were not even close, with about half being at least twice as expensive.

Ibrahim Yildirim, general manager of Sodexo food services at Troy, said that it is impossible to keep with the prices offered by a mega corporation such as Walmart.

"We are here not to take money from the students, but to provide for the students," said Yildirim. "Without the students, none of us are here."

After other price differences were pointed out, Yildirim admitted that there is room for error within the computer system used to price goods sold on campus.

With over 1,000 individual items in the system, Yildirim said that some of them have been selling for more than intended.

"I'm going through and making adjustments right now," he said.

Troy Dining Services says that this has been a mistake and not an intentional attempt to overcharge students.

"We try to fit with the students' budgets," said Yildirim.

Sheetal Nangia, marketing manager for Sodexo at Troy, wants students to know that there is value to the food plan and the choices being offered on campus.

"We don't want dining services to be about just food or money," Nangia said. "We want to be in the culture of Troy."

Food Price Comparison		
	Herb's	Wal-mart
20 oz. drink	\$1.79	\$4.28 (6-pack)
Lay's chips	\$1.39	\$1.98 (6-pack)
Ben & Jerry's	\$6.30	\$3.98
Mac and cheese cup	\$1.19	\$ .98
Snickers	\$2.00	\$ .74
Hot Pockets	\$5.79	\$2.00
Red Baron's pizza	\$5.29	\$2.98
Stouffer's Mac & Cheese	\$5.09	\$2.25
Stouffer's Lasagna	\$6.19	\$2.75
Ramen cup	\$1.19	\$ .42
Small bottle milk	\$1.79	\$1.68

Taylor Bowser graphic

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## Straight-party voting poses apathy problem

**Pierce Godwin**

*Staff writer*

The long-awaited 2014 midterm elections are in the books. Alabama Secretary of State Jim Bennett told The Montgomery Advertiser that he expected only 48-50 percent of all Alabamians to vote. However, only 41 percent actually participated on Tuesday.

Many Alabamians who participated on Tuesday were well aware of the candidates they voted for, but others chose to use the quicker method of straight-ticket voting. According to a Pike County report, the Alabama Democratic Party received straight-party voting of 25 percent of the Pike County ballots cast and the Alabama Republican Party received 11.4 percent.

As in every election, many are wondering whether straight-ticket voting is effective. Straight-ticket voting has its benefits, but its disadvantages are too large to pass over.

Straight-ticket voting, or straight-party voting, is when an individual votes for everyone affiliated with one specific

political party.

Voting is a right we possess. We should make responsible decisions based on the candidate, not the candidate's party affiliation. Straight-ticket voting does nothing but encourage laziness and apathy in voters.

Not everyone who votes straight-ticket is unaware of each candidate's values. However, it is hard to believe that all Alabamians who vote straight-ticket can elaborate on what each candidate stands for and why they voted for that candidate.

Political parties support straight-ticket voting because it generally helps the majority by suppressing votes toward the minority. Alabama is a more conservative state. The Democrats in Alabama are slightly more opposed to straight-ticket voting than the Republicans. When a voter marks the straight-ticket box, he or she has just removed any chance of Democrats, or third-party candidates, from winning a close race.

Joe Hubbard, the Democratic candidate for attorney general of Alabama, lost the election on Tuesday in a close race against

incumbent Luther Strange.

Hubbard fought hard to gain votes by reaching across the aisle with straight-ticket-voting Republicans.

On Monday, Hubbard tried to encourage Republicans to vote for him while still voting straight-ticket by tweeting that "(v)oters can vote straight-

**“Straight-ticket voting does nothing but encourage laziness and apathy in voters.”**

ticket and still get rid of Luther Strange.”

Hubbard tried to appeal to all Alabamians by claiming that Strange has not done his job as attorney general. One of his advertisements focused on cleaning up Alabama and featured the phrase “I’ll clean up Alabama. Let’s start with the office of attorney general.”

Straight-ticket voting also encourages partisanship. When people choose to support all the candidates in a political party, they are allowing one group to gain control of the leadership.

If everyone in Alabama voted straight-ticket, then the majority party would win the election.

According to Oklahomans For Ballot Access Reform, independent candidates are not represented in the straight-ticket voting system. Moreover, not all races have a candidate from all qualified parties.

Personally, I think the biggest problem with straight-ticket voting is that when an individual selects the Democrat or Republican bubble, he has allowed a political party to select the candidates for him. No longer can an individual decide who he wants to represent him.

In a perfect world, political parties should work together for a common goal, but that is not how it works.

After Tuesday, Republicans have kept the House and stolen the Senate.

On Wednesday, Fox News published an article on what to watch for over the next two

years. Mitch McConnell, prospective Senate majority leader from Kentucky, plans to stop “perpetual conflict” between Congress and the White House. The article continues to say that not all Republicans feel the same as McConnell.

Senator Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said that he will plan to push for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

I believe that there will not be many occasions when both parties will reach across the aisle for compromise.

Eliminating straight-ticket voting would encourage each voter to give more thought to whom she is voting for.

However, those who continue to vote with a party can still do so if straight-ticket is eliminated.

Eliminating straight-ticket voting does not remove the “D” or “R” next to a candidate’s name.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, only 14 states, including Alabama, currently allow straight-ticket voting. I believe it should only be a matter of time before Alabama eliminates it as a valid method of voting.

## Relationship longevity not worth taking abuse

**Quinta Goines**

*Contributor*

Have you ever held onto something so long just because of the time you had invested into it? Have you ever thought a certain person wasn’t good for you, but you just didn’t know how to shake him or her off?

A couple of years ago, I was “in love.” My friends knew it, my family knew it, and everybody else knew it. And then one day, what I thought was “love” turned into me being foolish.

All of a sudden, things started changing; the companionship that I had become accustomed to wasn’t there anymore. We were no longer having those long, drawn out, puppy love conversations, and some days it seemed that I was nonexistent to the person for no apparent reason.

He would constantly be angry at me for petty reasons and sometimes for no reason at all. This constantly had me on edge, and I felt as if I couldn’t do anything right. I put up with mistreatment that I know I did not deserve. My foolishness led me to believe that since we had been together for a year and a half, things would get better, and we were just going through a rough patch.

Then one day I thought to myself, “Quinta, you have to stop being foolish. You know what you deserve, and do not settle for less.”

I have been in relationships with people who I knew weren’t doing me any good, but I held onto them because I had the thought “We’ve been friends since fourth grade, so there is no way we cannot have a lifelong friendship.” For years, thoughts like that trapped my mind every time I would convince myself that a certain friendship or relationship was no longer benefiting me.

In some of those relationships, it seemed like everything would be my fault, that I couldn’t do anything right. At the same time, in the back of my mind, I thought to myself, “Quinta, you are being a better person to them than they are being to you. Quinta, you help them out in any way possible.”

For a moment, I ignored those thoughts and let myself think that everything was actually my fault and that I could not do anything right. Then I had an epiphany; I realized I was trying to hold on to friendships that were meant to last only for a moment and not for a lifetime. The people I encountered were meant only to teach me a life lesson.

I’m not saying that if you and your mate have one disagreement you should break up with them immediately. I’m simply saying to know the line between fighting for your relationship and being foolish for your relationship.

If your significant other is mistreating you, cheating on you, constantly choosing his or her friends over you, or not supporting you in your endeavors, please do not continue to hold down the relationship because the only thing you are getting out of it is the title of fool.

Also, I’m not saying to completely cut off ties with friends. Simply take a step back, analyze your friendships, and then act accordingly if need be. Do not let the fear of not having friends or a mate keep you from realizing your worth. Once you realize your worth and accept it, it won’t matter if you have one friend or 10.

Don’t ever let longevity have you looking foolish, because while you are looking foolish, other good relationships, with both friends and potential significant others, are passing you by.

*Quinta Goines is a junior multimedia journalism major from Needham.*



April Irvin photo

**Christina Carlisle, a senior elementary education major from Springville, and Scot Brumbeoe, a junior global business management major from Gardendale, are happily engaged. They have a loving and supportive relationship that is worth holding on to.**



Seth Nicholson

### EDITORIAL POLICIES

As Troy University’s official student newspaper, the Tropolitan strives to serve student interests. The Opinion 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. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of Troy University or the Hall School of Journalism and Communication.

Editorials stand as the official, corporate opinion of the

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#### 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 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 fa-

vorable 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.

### THE TROY UNIVERSITY TROPOLITAN

#### Troy University’s Student Newspaper

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TropNews.com

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## 'The Big Read' inspires art

Kianna Collins

Arts and Entertainment Editor

The foundations of time and space class taught by Beverly Leach, lecturer of art and the visual arts coordinator, designed books based on quotes and any kind of text relating to the themes of the book "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury.

The installation is on the social quad on campus. The books are all in a circle, showcasing the multiple themes, but something that each of the books shares is that they are all "on fire" at the base.

The book "Fahrenheit 451" is part of "The Big Read," a national event that Troy University is participating in this year.

Each student's book has the quote or idea that it is based upon worked into the piece of art.

Sarah Talbot, a sophomore graphic design major from Montgomery, used a quote from Nathaniel Hawthorne as her inspiration for her design.

"Such loss of faith is ever one of the saddest results of sin," Hawthorne said.

Talbot said that she wanted to focus on the destruction of religion in the world that surrounds "Fahrenheit 451." Her work was centered on Christianity.

"Picture the end of the world," Talbot said. "People are dying, but one man scurries to find anything he can write on to write about what he can remember of a world with religion."

"The lamb, the symbol of the childlike, naïve people of the world, slain for the world to see upon the humblest of altars, a beaten, wooden

cross."

Talbot's book has a lamb in hay and a cross, with many other religious symbols on the opposite page. Her book is No. 15 in the installation.

Tehron Stallworth, a sophomore graphic design major from Atmore, got his inspiration from a quote in the book: "With his symbolic helmet numbered 451 on his stolid head, and his eyes all orange flame with the thought of what came next, he flicked the igniter and the house jumped up in a gorging fire leaving the sky red, yellow and black."

Stallworth made his book to reflect the eyes of the firefighter in the book, who saw the building burning down. The book also has mirrors where eyes should be, and the eyes are surrounded by fire.

"On this project, I can conclude that reading is not only important to the world we live in today, but reading is the future of our society," said Stallworth.

His work is No. 14 in the display.

Alison Spengler, a freshman graphic design major from Smiths Station, is another student whose work is featured. She said she drew inspiration from a quote from Indian philosopher Rabindranath Tagore and the 1966 Information Act.

"The false can never grow into truth by growing in power," said Tagore.

"I stumbled upon this quote when researching for this project," said Spengler. "I felt it was very powerful and reflective of Fahrenheit 451."

She said that she feels like the reason she burned her pages and folded them in on themselves was to

show the idea that people in power will start crumbling in on themselves over time.

"In the book, Montag (the main character) discovers himself what was going on in the government," said Spengler. "He was trying to right the wrongs going on in his society."

Also, Spengler censored some of the text in her book to show another theme from Fahrenheit 451.

"In the government, there's a lot of things that need to be kept secret, and it's sometimes a good thing or a bad thing," said Spengler.

Spengler's work is No. 13 in the installation.

Dianne Warren, a junior graphic design major from Fort Pierce, Florida, went a different route with her piece. Her focus was on the whole book of Job.

To her, Montag in the end of the book was akin to Job.

"The character reminded me of a faithful servant of God," said Warren. "When he noticed the Bible, he stole it."

Warren spoke about how people wanted to protect the Bible and they didn't want to be burned. In her piece, she made a fire extinguisher to protect the Bible.

"As a Christian, I think that no one should take away religion and the ability to read the Word," said Warren. "It gives me direction, teaches me a better way to live and think, and it gives me faith when I read it."

"I praise Montag for grabbing the book in the end."



Brenna Patrick photo

Sarah Talbot's altered book for the foundations of time and space class. All of the books were inspired by quotes or themes surrounding "Fahrenheit 451."



This QR code leads to the artists' commentary on their pieces and pictures of their individual altered books. Many of the students provided an in-depth explanation of the themes and inspirations behind their works.

## 'The Odd Encounters' starts a campuswide social experiment

Kianna Collins

Arts and Entertainment Editor

There comes a time in everyone's life to meet someone he or she expected to be incompatible with, but, through an unexpected common interest, they become friends.

Some might describe this situation as an "odd encounter."

The experiment started Tuesday, Nov. 4. It will continue for the entire month of November.

Edward Noriega, director and professor of design, and his Design Studio class will be conducting a social experiment called "The Odd Encounters," using various forms of social media, such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

The experiment will explore the differences in people from various backgrounds, with the intention being for the participants to gain appreciation for those differences and to discover what brings them together.

Ten students from the class designed 10 sets of unique buttons using a theme



Taylor Bowser graphic

The Odd Encounters is a social experiment from the mind of Edward Noriega, professor of art and design. The main goal of the project is to bring people together who wouldn't have otherwise known each other.

of two opposing personality traits. Some basic examples were: introversion or extroversion, neat or messy, and the ability to be responsible or irresponsible.

Once the buttons were completed, the designers attached them to cards that had instructions on what to do next.

The buttons were then given to department secretaries along with a letter

telling them to distribute the buttons to students who they think will participate in the experiment.

Once a student gets a button, he or she is encouraged to find the person who has the matching button through social media sites. The experiment can be boiled down to a big scavenger hunt via social media.

Once a pair has found each other, they will notify the designer of the buttons.

This is only the first phase of the experiment.

The second phase is setting up an interview between the pair and the designer. The designer will determine whether the interview will be online or in person. The interview questions will highlight either differences or similarities between two people who wouldn't have normally met.

A piece will then be created based on the answers of the two individuals.

Additional portions of the experiment are the various stickers that will be placed around campus. If a student finds a sticker on campus, he or she can take a picture of the sticker and post it on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook with the hashtag #TheOddEncounters.

If a participant in the experiment isn't sure of what to do, he or she should contact the respective designer of the button received.

For more information on the experiment, students can contact Noriega at enoriega@troy.edu.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY AND INCEPTION  
**INTERSTELLAR**  
7:20, 9:00  
Mon. thru Thu. PG-13

Disney  
**BIG HERO 6** real D 3D PG

1:15  
4:15 2D  
7:15  
9:35 2D

FROM THE PRODUCER OF THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE AND THE PRODUCER OF INSIDIOUS

1:00, 4:00  
6:50, 9:40

**OUIJA**  
KEEP TALKING YOURSELF IT'S JUST A GAME  
PG-13

COFFEE  
POOR  
VW  
23456789

**HALLOWEEN**

YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST LOVE  
**The Best of Me**  
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PG-13

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## Tobacco-free campus? Only in name

**Valario Johnson**  
Staff Writer

Though there are signs posted throughout campus urging students, faculty and visitors to not smoke while on campus, some students said that the smoke-free campus policy implemented in 2012 does not seem to be enforced.

Others said that the university has no right to force this policy onto students.

"The whole issue came from the health and welfare for students," said Herbert Reeves, dean of student services. "Prior to that, we had a smoke-free policy in the buildings."

Reeves said that the major problem was that the administration was finding people outside the academic buildings smoking and just throwing their cigarette butts onto the ground.

"We actually took away the urns from around the buildings to get people not to smoke," he said.

"We've had some issues this semester with students smoking in the hall and in their rooms," said Rainey Ketcham, a junior elementary education major from Birmingham and a resident assistant in Pace Hall, which has been one of the residence halls having continuous issues with smoking.

According to Ketcham, many students, particularly international students, will go outside the building to smoke, but resident assistants do not have the authority to fine or ask them to stop unless they are in the building.

Ketcham continued by saying that the police officers or security personnel do not tell them to stop. She said that she does not think that the rule has been enforced enough for people to stop smoking on campus.

Reeves said that resident assistants do have the authority to enforce this rule, even if people are smoking right outside the building. Reeves said he also believes that Student Government Association members have a duty to do the same around campus. "This is everybody's job, to enforce these policies," he said.

"Normally, if we smell it and we have evidence of them smoking, we give them a \$50 fine and remind them that they are not allowed to, and if it keeps happening, then that's when we have to give them a

higher fine or talk to a higher administration to get them to stop," Ketcham said.

"Pace is the center of all of our international students, not just the ones who happen to live there," said Sterling Wingard, a senior information systems major from Cape Coral, Florida, and a resident assistant in Pace Hall. "So no matter how aware of the rules we can get our residents to be, there will always be another student sitting outside smoking that we've never seen before."

"We have asked the staff in the international program to help us with educating international students on the policy," Reeves said.

Reeves said he understands that social smoking is a part of many international students' cultures, but that does not exempt them from the policy.

"I do not smoke often," said Trevor Brown, a sophomore American Sign Language major from Gladstone. "Whenever I do smoke, I try to smoke tobacco-free vaporizer pens."

Brown said although he knows it is a bad choice in itself, he smokes only vaporizer pens, as he tried to go with the safest option. He encourages other tobacco users to switch as well.

Brown said that he first got into smoking due to peer pressure that he said is pretty strong in college. He said that he thinks the freedom that students get when away from parental authority figures compels them to try smoking despite the restrictions against it.

"When you come on campus, it's all about exploring what you are able to do and not able to do as an adult," he said. "I think that's a choice they think that they can make where they may think they are smooth enough to do it without getting caught, or maybe they choose to do it without even caring."

Although Brown himself does not smoke on campus and goes outside of his apartment to do so when he needs to, he said that he sees many students, particularly younger freshmen, disregarding the rule and smoking on campus.

Alison Spengler, a freshman graphic design major from Smiths Station and supporter of the smoke-free policy, said that the efforts to stop smoking on campus will come about when everyone works as a whole and that if students



Hannah Crews photo

**From left to right: Tayler Stephens, a freshman broadcast journalism major from Tallahassee, Florida; Amber Harris, a freshman nursing major from Fayetteville; and Monica Richards, a freshman psychology major from Athens, are smoking outside Malone Hall next to a tobacco-free-campus sign.**

want to smoke, then they need to leave campus to do so.

"The administration doesn't necessarily have a say in our personal choices," Spengler said. "Therefore, I wouldn't recommend them implementing anything themselves, but I do think a bigger outreach in our school community as a whole, administration and students, to promote our school policy would be more beneficial. It should be a positive campus effort."

"The way that the administration will have to go about doing it is actually having a consequence for smoking," Wingard said. "As of now, there is no teeth to the policy if someone is smoking outdoors."

"When they first decided to be a smoke-free campus, I don't think that they really made it a big enough thing," Ketcham said. Ketcham said that she does not feel that the administration communicated the policy thoroughly enough, though she understands that people will smoke regardless of the rule.

"I'm not sure quite how I feel about

the policy as a whole," Wingard said. "As a student and RA, I feel like I have a right to a smoke-free environment, but at the same time, nicotine addictions are a very real thing. A lot of folks need to smoke just to function normally. So I don't know if I am for it or not. If we do enforce it more heavily, what do we tell those who really are addicted?"

Reeves said that for students who find themselves wanting to quit smoking, the university sponsors programs through the Alabama Department of Public Health, but he also said that these programs require groups of people.

Reeves also suggested that students who want to quit smoking go to the student health center on campus. He said that there, the health professionals may be able to prescribe students with nicotine patches.

"This is going to be a constant reinforcement," Reeves said. "You can't expect 100 percent compliance within two years. Are we better than we were a few years ago? Yes."

## Workshop addresses challenges of the classroom

**Emily Beckstrom**  
Staff Writer

Boring lectures, monotone professors and hard exams are not optional for college students. However, forming good study habits and relational skills can help students avoid bad grades and open their minds to a world of knowledge.

The student development center, located in Eldridge Hall, hosted a student workshop, "How to Deal with a Challenging Professor and Pass the Exam," in the Trojan Center on Tuesday, Nov. 4, to discuss the above concepts.

JoAnn Smith, a student affairs counseling graduate student and administrative assistant for Center for Student Success, presented the material to students, informing them on how to learn from the professor and pass their exams.

Smith emphasized that students learn how to talk and relate to their peers through personal, one-on-one experiences. By seeking out classmates, students can build study groups, compare notes and form better study habits.

To help students build good study habits, Smith came up with an experiment that requires two students, a TV, and a pen and paper.

"Sit down and watch the news with a friend for 10 minutes," Smith said. "Take notes like you would in class, then compare the notes."

"What information is the same? This is probably the most important information. Now do the same thing with your class notes."

Smith said another way to recognize important test material is "If a professor writes it on the board, or says, 'Listen up!' it's probably going to be on the test."

Smith encourages students to interact with the staff members in their departments because this enables students to learn new things.

"Faculty have been working in their profession for many years," she said. "They have a lot of knowledge to share."

Approaching professors requires preparation, thought and courage. While preparing, Smith advises students to take good notes in class and to pay attention to what the professor says and how he or she says it.

College students, specifically freshmen, should know who their advisers are and how to contact them. Advisers can offer students advice on different options for changing classes and how their decisions will affect their graduation dates.

Smith added that dropping and/or adding courses can greatly affect students academically and financially.

"Knowing the deadlines for dropping or adding courses is important," she said.

However, students must consider their health, and ask themselves, "How many hours should I take to make sure my nutrition and sleep are adequately balanced?"

"By practicing time management, you will learn how to balance your meals, workload and sleep schedule," she added.

Organizing a calendar at the beginning of the week and referring to the calendar or to-do list can help a student eat and sleep well while also succeeding in class.

"Don't pull all-nighters," Smith said. "You need at least eight hours of sleep each night and three healthy meals each day."

Dava Foster, a conditional counselor at Troy and Smith's assistant, encourages students to take advantage of campus resources such as the library and tutoring center, which offer free resources to students on a variety of subjects.

"Students would be surprised at what the tutoring center offers," Foster said. "There's group study sessions every week in Eldridge Hall in certain subjects."

The next workshop is at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in Trojan Center Room 119.



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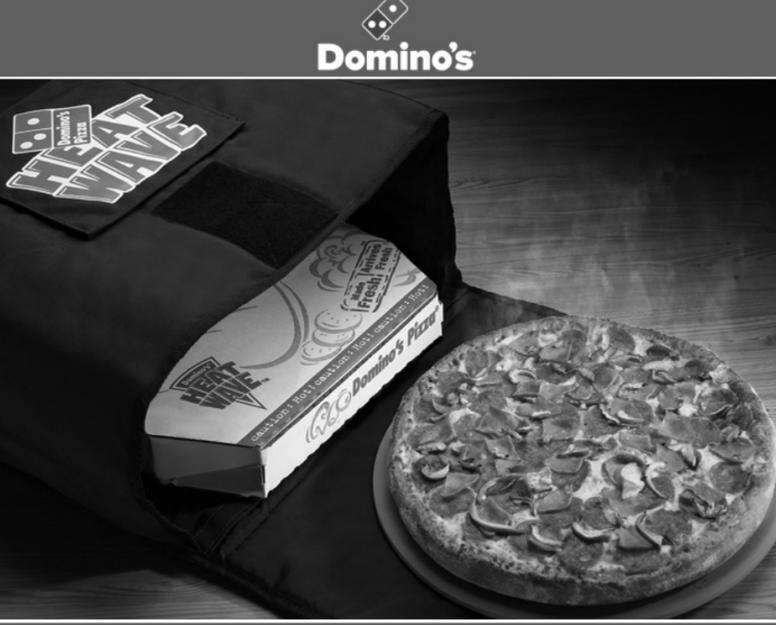
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## Eagles rush past the Trojans

Georgia Southern beats Troy on the road 42-10, eighth loss of the season

**Michael Shipma**  
Staff Writer

The Troy football team lost its eighth game this season on Thursday, Oct. 30, as it fell 42-10 at Georgia Southern.

The Eagles (7-2, 6-0 Sun Belt) have yet to lose against a conference opponent this season.

The Trojans (1-8, 1-4 Sun Belt), who have had trouble stopping runs over the past few games, were again unsuccessful at stopping the Eagles' run game. Georgia Southern rushed for 421 yards as a team against the Trojans, who were unable to find any answer for the Eagles' dominant offense.

The Trojans started the game by fumbling the opening kickoff, and unfortunately for Troy, that set the tone for the rest of the night. The Eagles took the ball from the Troy 17-yard line, and after a four-play drive, Eagles sophomore quarterback Kevin Ellison scored a 6-yard run.

After a quick three-and-out for the Trojan offense, Georgia Southern took over on offense again. Ellison and the Eagles' offense wore out Troy's defense with a 16-play scoring drive that ended with Ellison scoring again on a 1-yard touchdown



Caleb Hicks photo

**Junior wide receiver Teddy Ruben returned a total of 38 yards in kickoff returns. Troy accumulated a total of 154 offensive yards during the game against Georgia Southern.**

run.

In the second quarter, the Troy offense drove the ball down the field to the Georgia Southern 8-yard line. The Eagles' defense stopped the drive, however, and forced a field goal from sophomore kicker Ryan Kay to make the score 14-3.

It was the last time the Trojans scored until late in the fourth quarter.

Georgia Southern didn't let the Trojans get back into the game, and they responded with a 12-play, 84-yard scoring drive that again wore down the Trojan defense. Redshirt freshman

running back Alfred Ramsby capped off the drive with a 4-yard touchdown run before halftime.

Ellison and Ramsby led the Eagles' dominant offense.

The second half was the same story for the Trojans, as the Eagles extended their lead. Up

21-3 coming out of halftime, Georgia Southern continued to dominate the Trojans on both sides of the ball. Redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon Silvers and junior quarterback Dontrel Pruitt combined for just 13 yards for 4 out 10 passing attempts.

With the Trojans unable to move the ball all night, the Eagles' offense took over. Ellison and Ramsby both rushed for touchdowns in the second half, as well as sophomore backup quarterback Favian Upshaw.

Troy scored its only touchdown of the night with 1:18 left in the game, when senior running back Khary Franklin scored on a 3-yard touchdown run.

"I thought our guys really played hard," head coach Larry Blakeney said. "(Georgia Southern) is a really good team. You've got to give them credit. They've got good players, and they're well-coached. They've got a great scheme."

Troy looks to bounce back as it returns home to play Georgia State. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8, at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

## Cross-country teams take ninth place

**Jill Odom**  
Sports Editor

The cross-country team traveled to Mobile on Sunday, Nov. 2, and participated in the Sun Belt Cross Country Championships. The men's and women's teams both took home ninth place.

In the women's 5K, sophomore Mikayla Hodges set a personal-best time of 18:19.2, while leading the Trojans in 29th place. Second to finish for Troy was junior Julia Ostendorf in 31st with a time of 18:29.5.

Teammate sophomore Marsel Mosley was the next Trojan across the finish line at 18:46.6. Freshmen Sarah Zylstra and Samantha Smith finished close together, at 19:26.9 and 19:50.7 respectively.

"We had a few season personal records," head coach Elliott Blount said. "However, we lacked the competitive-

ness in the heart of the race, which cost us one or two places in the overall finish."

The men's team was led by freshman Dylan Ogburn, who took 45th place, at 27:09.1 in the 8K race. Close behind was sophomore Sean Kent, with a time of 27:23.4, and third for the Trojans was sophomore Timothy Bulger at 27:53.0.

Freshmen Joe Giese, Eric Schueller and Cameron McCutcheon all finished consecutively, ending 29:03.7, 29:06.6, and 30:04.6, correspondingly.

Blount was dissatisfied with the team's performance.

"We failed to play to our strengths, and with such a small margin of error it showed," Blount said. "We got separated early and were unable to recover."

Troy competes in the NCAA Division I South Region XC Championship on Friday, Nov. 14.



April Irvin photo

**Freshman Robert Kichler limbers up for the upcoming cross-country meet.**

## Pigskin Picks

**Week 11**  
Current Leaders:  
**April & Andrew**  
The Lineup

							
<b>Andrew Clay</b> (70-30)	<b>Jill Odom</b> (53-47)	<b>Michael Shipma</b> (58-42)	<b>Wally Pendergrass</b> (65-35)	<b>April Irvin</b> (70-30)	<b>Thomas Gleaton</b> (61-39)	<b>Chase Robinson</b> (59-41)	<b>Joshua Thurston</b> (64-36)
Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Iowa	Minnesota
#13 Baylor @ #18 Oklahoma	Baylor	Baylor	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Baylor	Oklahoma	Baylor
Georgia State @ Troy	Troy	Troy	Georgia State	Georgia State	Troy	Troy	Georgia State
Texas A&M @ #3 Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
#10 Notre Dame @ #14 Arizona St	Arizona State	Arizona State	Notre Dame	Arizona State	Notre Dame	Arizona State	Notre Dame
#9 Kansas State @ #7 TCU	Kansas State	TCU	Kansas State	TCU	Kansas State	Kansas State	TCU
#6 Alabama @ #19 LSU	Alabama	LSU	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	LSU
#16 Ohio State @ #8 Mich. St.	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State
San Jose State @ Fresno State	Fresno State	Fresno State	Fresno State	Fresno State	Fresno State	San Jose State	Fresno State
#5 Oregon @ #17 Utah	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon

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**TRIVIA QUESTION:**  
**WHAT'S WHITE, BLACK AND READ ALL OVER?**  
**ANSWER: THE TROPOLITAN**

## Fall season means fresh start

*Men's and women's basketball coaches discuss their hopes to improve*

**Michael Shipma**

Staff Writer

The Troy basketball programs look to improve from last year, as the season tipoff comes up for both the men's and women's teams.

The men's team, under second-year head coach Phil Cunningham, is looking to improve on its 11-20 record from last season. Despite losing four of five starters from last season, as well as losing key returning players to injuries in the preseason, Cunningham still has high expectations for this season.

"I think this team really has a chance to get better and better as the year progresses," Cunningham said. "If we can be healthy by the time we get to conference play and get (junior guard) Oskar Reinfelds healthy and get everyone on the same page going into the conference playoff, I think we can do pretty good."

Returning this season for the Trojans is senior forward Kevin Thomas, who averaged 9.2 points per game last season and led the team in blocks.

The Trojans, who lack experience on the floor, will look to Thomas to be productive on the court, as well as provide

the leadership needed to win games.

"The main thing we've asked of Kevin is to remain consistent," Cunningham said. "He's had a terrific summer and a terrific preseason. He comes to work every day, and he has a great attitude every day. To me, that's more important to be able to show the young guys how to do things than just saying it."

The women's team also looks to be competitive this season under third-year head coach Chanda Rigby. Rigby, who has always advocated up-tempo play, has led the Trojans the past couple of seasons to score more points than they've ever been able to before.

Last season, the Trojans averaged 80.4 points per game, which was the best average of any Sun Belt team that season, and 15th in the NCAA. In two seasons under Rigby, the Trojans had four 100-point games, despite Troy not even having one 100-point game in 15 years.

A big part of the Trojans being able to score so many points was having Joanna Harden, who shouldered the majority of the scoring for the Trojans last season.

"What it looks like from practice is that there's no one person that's going to fill those shoes," Rigby said. "But looking at



(Left) Kevin Glackmeyer photo (right) April Irvin photo  
**(Left) Chanda Rigby heads into her third season as head women's basketball coach while (right) Phil Cunningham begins his second season as head men's basketball coach.**

the film from one of our scrimmages, I could see that the way we share the ball is much better than it has been at any time before."

The women's team looks to score more this season like it has in recent years, but this team will have to focus on a more balanced scoring attack.

The women's team starts its season with an exhibition game at home on Thursday, Nov. 6, against the University of Alabama-Huntsville at 5:15 p.m.

The men will play right after the women, as they start their season against West Florida. Tipoff for the men's game is set for 7:30 p.m.

## Troy volleyball fails to snap skid

**Wally Pendergrass**

Staff Writer

The Trojan volleyball team lost two matches in the state of Arkansas over the weekend, and has now lost 14 matches in a row.

The Trojans took on the Arkansas State Red Wolves on Friday, Oct. 31, in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Troy got off to a slow start, losing the first two sets 25-19 and 25-16, respectively.

The Trojans gave the Red Wolves a scare in the third set on Halloween night, but Arkansas State eventually took the set 25-21, and the match 3-0.

Junior middle hitter Darby Griff led the Trojans with 11 kills and an attack percentage of .688. The highest attack percentage after Griff was sophomore outsider hitter Symone Shaw's .160, and the team had an attack percentage of only .165.

Freshman setter Reina Terry had 29 assists, and junior libero Ali Dowdall again led the Trojan defense with 14 digs.

Troy then faced Sun Belt Conference leader UALR in Little Rock, Arkansas. While the Troy Trojans are on a 14-match losing streak, the UALR Trojans extended their winning streak to 16 matches with the win over Troy.

Troy was unable to get much going against UALR, and as a result went down in three straight sets, 25-19, 25-14 and 25-18.

The Trojans once again had a very low attack percentage for the match, hitting only .039 overall, and Troy had a -.150 attack percentage for the second set.

For only the third time all season, no Troy player had double-digit kills. Senior outside hitter Marija Zelenovic led Troy

with six kills.

Terry again led the team with 21 assists, and Dowdall led the team with 16 digs. No other Troy player had double-digit digs in the match.

The Troy Trojans have lost their last three matches 3-0 and haven't won a set since Oct. 19.

In order to place high enough to make the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, the Trojans must win their five remaining matches and UL Lafayette and South Alabama must lose all its remaining matches.

The Trojans play their last two home matches of the season this weekend. Troy will host UL Monroe on Friday, Nov. 7, and UL Lafayette on Saturday, Nov. 8.

Both matches are scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Trojan Arena.



April Irvin photo

**Junior outside hitter Blair Winston had a total of nine kills in the game against Arkansas State on Friday, Oct. 31.**

Go to [www.tropnews.com](http://www.tropnews.com) for an article on women's tennis!

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