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Scammers swindle financial aid



Samantha Bankester graphic

Destiny Hosmer
Staff Writer

Recurring fraud in the financial aid system has been causing Troy University and its students to face the burden of multiple scams.

According to John McCall, chief of university police, people are enrolling in Troy courses under fake or stolen identities in order to receive federal grants paid through the school.

Once the aid has been processed, the "student" will drop any courses

in which he previously enrolled and pocket the refund money he received in return.

Once Troy is informed of the fraud, it is too late. It is then the university's responsibility to pay back the money that was stolen.

"Some of it is financial aid fraud; some of it is just identity theft," said Herbert Reeves, dean of student services. "We're working on a case right now with a young lady who didn't get any aid, but her identity's been stolen."

"Somebody registered for classes in her name, attempted to get financial

aid but didn't get any, then they didn't withdraw from the classes. Therefore, this young lady now has a bill with the university."

According to an incident report filed by university police in April, approximately \$75,000 had been "stolen" through the scam between January and April of this year alone.

Reeves and McCall said that financial aid fraud has been an ongoing issue at Troy and other campuses, especially at those offering online courses.

"This type of fraud is more popular recently, but it has been going on for

years," McCall said.

Reeves said that the perpetrators behind this type of fraud are sophisticated groups of people, and how they receive personal information is yet to be determined.

"One major issue is that one person could be posing as 15 different people and receiving all of that aid," McCall said.

Currently enrolled students are not the only targets, however.

See **Financial fraud**, page 2

Assaults raise safety concerns

Grishma Rimal
News Editor

"They said 'Hey' and I said 'What?' And one said 'Give us your money,' and I said 'Hell, no.' Then they started walking towards me. I swung first, and then one hit me in my stomach, and then I fell to the ground."

Kevin Jones, a junior human services major from Lineville, described the above encounter while recalling the assault and robbery that he faced on Tuesday, Sept. 15, around 9:30 p.m., at the Shackelford Quad.

According to Jones, he was walking from Pace Hall toward Trojan Center when two men called out to him from behind and the aforementioned exchange took place.

After Jones fell to the ground, "one started kicking me on my right side," he said.

"One of them took my wallet. I only had 20 bucks," Jones said. "And then they just threw it (the wallet) back on me, and I saw them run off towards the main (Bibb Graves) quad."

The men took only the \$20 from Jones. After the men went away, Jones decided to go back to his apartment.

"I drove back to my place and sat down for a little while because

truthfully, my pride was hurt," he said. "Because I basically got jumped, and I didn't want to tell anybody."

A friend convinced Jones to report the incident because it could also happen to someone else. Jones reported it to the university police.

The episode was the second of its kind to occur at Shackelford Quad within the span of a week.

On Thursday, Sept. 10, a female student reported being approached by an unknown man and defending herself with pepper spray.

According to John McCall, university police chief, the police are unsure of the intent of the suspect in the pepper spray case.

"We don't know whether it was a criminal act or not because the first girl reacted so quickly," he said. "So we never found out what his real intentions were. The second incident was probably just a crime of opportunity."

Police have had no leads in either of the cases, as they continue to review security camera footage.

In lights of the events, lighting and patrols have been increased at Shackelford Quad.

See **Assaults**, page 2



Hannah Crews photo

7 Bridges, an Eagles cover band from Nashville, Tennessee, performed on Monday, Sept. 21, in Claudia Crosby Theater. Full story on page 3.

'16-17 rec center target General fees to increase by \$100 starting fall 2016

Lilly Casolaro
Staff Writer
Grishma Rimal
News Editor

The demolition of Sartain Hall is set to start as early as the spring 2016 semester, in preparation for the construction of the new recreation center.

The Student Government Association held a town hall meeting Monday night that focused on discussion of this new facility.

The 70 students in attendance provided feedback in a forum-style discussion on preferences for the new recreation center, including equipment, possible hours of operation and additional food options.

"We see this facility as a tremendous need," said Mark Tillman, dean of the College of Health and Human Services. "Keep in mind that we do not have an unlimited budget, so we need to differentiate in what we want and what we need."

According to John Dew,

senior vice chancellor of student services and administration, the university will get feedback from students, faculty and staff. Then architectural firms will be invited to provide bids and designs, and the budget will be estimated based on this input.

The task force to collect feedback includes three SGA representatives, leadership from the student recreation office, faculty who teach recreational management and individuals who have been involved in the design of similar structures in the past.

"We want it to be ready as soon as possible in the academic year 2016-2017," Dew said. "The sooner it is, the better."

The most popular recreational facilities on campus currently are the fitness center and the Natatorium.

The fitness center averages 336 students a day, with the heaviest use between 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., according to Shane Tatum, coordinator of facilities

and recreation. About 60 students visit the Natatorium daily to use the indoor, eight-lane, 25-yard, Olympic-sized pool.

Multi-athletic courts, accessible equipment, ample workout space, instructor-led fitness classes, a leisure pool and healthier food options were some of the ideas mentioned for the new facility.

Hours of operation suggestions generally centered on staying open later rather than opening earlier.

According to an email sent last May, a \$100 student fee will be charged to "all Troy Campus students taking six or more credit hours during the fall and spring semester and a \$50 fee during the summer semester for Troy Campus students taking three or more credit hours."

According to Dew, this fee increment will begin in fall 2016.

See **Rec center**, page 2



Chloe Lyle photo

Shackelford Quad, where two safety-related incidents have occurred in the past two weeks. The quad is surrounded by three residence halls: Pace, Cowart and Shackelford.

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Russian Club organizing second conference

Madina Seytmuradova
Contributor

The Troy University Russian Club will hold its second annual interdisciplinary student conference in October.

Students are encouraged to submit abstracts on the topic of "Center vs. Periphery" to participate and get a chance to publish their papers on new online journal sponsored by the club.

"The purpose of organizing the conference is to bring

together students from different disciplines who studied Russia and the former Soviet Union," said Michael Slobodchikoff, assistant professor of political science and faculty adviser of the Russian Club.

"It's an interdisciplinary panel and conference, so students from history, political science, and really any discipline where they have written papers regarding Russia are welcome to apply and to share their research."

To present their research at the conference, students need to send an application to Slobod-

chikoff, along with a 150-word abstract on the topic of relationships between the center and periphery in Russia and the former Soviet region.

"This could include historical papers related to the Cold War period or Russian politics as well," he said.

The club committee will select the best abstracts and notify the authors. The students will then need to submit the paper to be able to present at the conference.

"I hope that students gain an

understanding that this region has many issues like many others," Slobodchikoff said.

Xavia Alloway, a senior political science major from Troy and vice president of the Russian Club, said students should participate in order to expand their knowledge about Russia and also to gain experience in research and public speaking.

"The more you talk in front of people, the better you get at it," she said. "Because when you write your paper you should be comfortable about the research

you've done and be comfortable with answering questions that people have, and it just builds confidence."

The abstracts can be sent to Slobodchikoff at mslobodchikoff@troy.edu by Sept. 30. Selected students will be invited to give a 10- to 15-minute presentation at the conference.

The group said anyone interested in the topic is welcome to participate, regardless of whether he submits papers or not, by attending and posing questions to the speakers.



Hannah Crews photo

The student welfare committee at the Student Government Association's meeting on Tuesday night. SGA passed a resolution to designate fraternity row parking as commuter-only parking from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to Ryan Cole, Alpha Tau Omega president. The resolution will not come into effect until approved by the office of student services. Rivalry Week was also announced to begin on Friday, Sept. 25, with the soccer match against the University of South Alabama. On Monday, Sept. 28, an old car will be set up in the social quad for students to beat up with a sledgehammer and vandalize using spray paint.

Check out tropnews.com for more news stories on IT upgrades at Troy, and Pike County United Way Foundation's fundraising event.

Financial fraud

continued from page 1

"They just pick random people," Reeves said. "They range from typical college age all the way up to people in their 80s and 90s."

Over the years, McCall estimates that the university has lost a significant amount of money due to this crime.

In addition to the university's losses, the individuals who are victims of the identity theft suffer as well.

"Where we run into the problem is when we disburse money and later find out that there's fraud involved," Reeves said. "Then we have to pull that money back to return to the lender. Then it goes on that (real) student's account and they owe it to the university."

Reeves and McCall

said that Troy is working to combat financial fraud in various ways, including brainstorming with other online universities and conducting common address searches.

"We are still figuring out different ways to combat it, like requiring those suspected of fraud to come to the university in person to sign paperwork, which they won't do," McCall said.

According to Reeves, another technique used is common address searches that consist of reviewing the home addresses provided by students and noting if an unrelated group of people share the same address.

"A person may use 10 or 15 people's personal information to try to obtain financial aid, but they use the same address or a very similar address," Reeves said. "That way, when the refunds are mailed, they all go to that address."

Despite the difficult process, Troy has been successful in closing many financial aid fraud cases in the past, according to Reeves.

"The university begins the process of investigating, and then we report to the Inspector General's office (with the U.S. Department of Education)," he said. "Sometimes it comes back to us with recommendations on what we should do, or sometimes they will pick it up and move forward with it."

"We've had success in bringing closure to a group of people in the Montgomery and Phenix City areas that were stealing identities and using them to receive federal financial aid."

As a preventative measure, Reeves encourages identity theft protection services such as LifeLock for anyone who feels at risk.

Rec center

continued from page 1

Some students said they did not necessarily want to pay for a facility they would not be able to directly utilize. Other students were more concerned with the long-term improvement of the university.

"The betterment of our university is the priority, so regardless of where you are in your time here, the betterment of the university surpasses our four years of being here," said Sam Moody, a sophomore

global business major from Montgomery.

With the demolition of Sartain, it is currently uncertain where the kinesiology department will be relocated. However, Dew mentioned the possibility of having teaching and research space for the program in the new structure. He also said that the possibility for students in those programs to work in the recreational center, as a part of their academic curriculum, would be considered.

A student survey has been emailed and made available to

all Troy University students concerning their preferences for the new recreation facility.

Christina Martin, coordinator of assessment for the kinesiology and health promotion department, said all students should participate and include any additional desires in the comment section at the end of the survey.

There have been about 800 student survey responses so far, according to Martin. The deadline to complete the survey is Thursday, Sept. 24, by 5 p.m.

The survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TROYRECUseageanddesign>.



Chloe Lyle photo

From left to right: Mark Tillman, Shane Tatum and Christina Martin, of the recreation center faculty planning committee.

Assaults

continued from page 1

"We've also talked to physical plant about updating the lighting in that area as far as replacing the old halogen stuff with LED lighting to make it a little brighter as well," McCall said.

Herbert Reeves, dean of student services, said that he was surprised that those incidents occurred in the Shackelford Quad because of the heavy traffic

that usually flows through the area.

"There's nothing different now than there was last year, other than we've got some people that are just preying on unsuspecting students," he said. "The only thing we can do at this point is ask people to remain vigilant, and when they're out and about be sure they're traveling in pairs and staying in well-lit areas."

"Unfortunately there are people that are going to try to take advantage of other people when they sense some type

of a weakness."

Reeves said that comparing the crime statistics for Troy and other campuses across the state and the nation, Troy would be considered a very safe campus.

"I don't think we're getting more unsafe," he said. "I just think that when you have more students on campus, you've got to do a better job of educating students and faculty and staff on the precautions they need to take."

McCall advised students to be aware of

surroundings and to walk in pairs at night.

"Be aware of what you are doing with your valuables," McCall said. "Don't carry a whole lot of cash with you at night if you are walking by yourself."

Reflecting on his personal experience, Jones said that he had never thought Troy to be unsafe in the five years that he had been familiar with the campus.

"I need to be more aware of my surroundings and less naive that we don't live in a perfect world," Jones said.

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7 Bridges pays tribute to Eagles

Troy Arts Council brings cover band to university's campus

Sable Riley
Staff Writer

Claudia Crosby Theater came alive Monday night as 7 Bridges, a prominent Eagles tribute band, performed an accurate rendition of "Hotel California," originally performed by the Eagles.

The Troy Arts Council presented "7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience" in concert Sept. 21 at 7 p.m., where the attendees spanned all ages.

"I'm a big fan of live music, and I've grown up listening to the Eagles," said Noah Finley, a sophomore undeclared major from Silverhill. "I wanted to check the band out to see how good they were.

"They were very, very good. The musicians, each one, was extremely talented and played their roles as the original Eagles members very well, and they put on a very good show."

The group began playing with its current lineup in 2013 and has gained a nationwide reputation due to its ability to authentically reproduce hit songs by the Eagles, such as "Take it Easy" and "Desperado."

7 Bridges has been described



Hannah Crews photo

7 Bridges, an Eagles tribute band, played at Troy University's Claudia Crosby Theater on Monday, Sept. 21, bringing a big performance to a small stage.

John Jinright, Troy University associate professor and active member of TAC.

"We try to bring artistic talent that will go out into our local schools and do programs for those children at no cost."

To help pay for these kind of programs, TAC hosts a public concert on the Troy campus. In exchange for a rent-free theater and technical support, TAC offers Troy University students 120 free tickets on a first-come, first-served basis.

Jinright said the members of 7 Bridges held an instructed sound check for music industry students to observe and ask questions.

"They displayed outstanding showmanship," Jinright said.

"There was comedy, there was history, and they were telling stories about the music business and about folk life, about the origin of their name '7 Bridges.'

"That's the hallmark of being a great entertainer because they engaged the audience and connected with everyone on several different levels."

TAC is currently looking for student volunteers in marketing and graphic design to help publicize upcoming cultural arts events.

as the "best Eagles tribute on Earth" by Rolling Stone Magazine.

Tony Haan Jr., a singer/guitarist from Short Gap, West Virginia, portrays Joe Walsh from the Eagles. Haan said members of 7 Bridges, based out of Nashville, Tennessee, are all fans of the Eagles and met each other through a series of random circumstances but now consider each other "family."

While they tour mostly on the East Coast, Haan said, "We're trying to go all over the country.

If we go out to California, that's where the Eagles started; we would probably go over pretty well there."

Haan's independent album "Tony Haan Audio/Visual" can be found on Pandora and Spotify.

"We like to entertain people; that's the biggest thing," said Jason Manning, a singer/guitar player from Corsicana, Texas, who portrays Glenn Frey of the Eagles.

"We love the Eagles, too,

because they have a lot of different genres, a lot of different styles of music, and it's all ages," Manning said.

The Troy Arts Council put on the show and is a volunteer organization, open to the public and dedicated to educating youths about the cultural arts.

"All the money we raise and all the support we receive from grants from the city, county and the state and corporate sponsors goes towards bringing cultural arts events into the schools in our community," said

Troy Southern Circuit begins with 'I Will Dance'



Holly Ammons photo

From left to right: Joseph East, director of "I Will Dance," Jack Towns, actor and Ronald Smith, actor.

Monday, Sept. 14, 2015, in Claudia Crosby Theater marked the premiere of the first Southern Circuit Film Series featured film of the year, "I Will Dance." Students were able to attend the feature for free at 6 p.m.

"I Will Dance" is a documentary style film about the trials and accomplishments of three young people in a theater-oriented after-school group in Selma. It follows the progression of three individuals and their interactions with the counselors and other participants.

Troy Southern Circuit Film Series is organized by Jonathan Cellon, the coordinator of Troy's Office of Civic Engagement, an on-campus organization with a mission to promote more applied learning and the expansion of skills in leadership, project management and civic action.

Harrison reads poetry

Scott McLendon
Staff Writer

Sorrell Chapel hosted poet Joseph Harrison Friday afternoon. Harrison, a native of Richmond, Virginia, moved to Alabama when his father became a professor at Auburn University.

The congregation of students and teachers who came to see Harrison filled every available space in the building.

"Since the poet grew up in Alabama, that drew my attention to hear his poetry, which in ways had been shaped by his upbringing in the South," said Kalen Busby, a junior English major from Slapout.

Harrison is now a senior editor for Waywiser Press. The poet has released three poetry collections, "Someone Else's Name" in 2003, "Identity Theft" in 2008 and "Shakespeare's Horse" in 2015.

"Someone Else's Name" was published by

Waywiser in the United Kingdom and then by Zoo Press in 2004.

The collection was one of five recommended poetry books for 2004 by the Washington Post and a finalist for the 2005 Poets' Prize.

Also in 2005, he won an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

His other collections have seen similar critical acclaim.

The Yale alumnus read from his latest poetry collection, "Shakespeare's Horse." Harrison's voice filled the chapel with a boisterous, confident recitation.

"People look to poetry to add another aesthetic fold to their lives," Harrison said. "Like music or movies, poetry is something people find release in."

"Poetry can claim qualities of rigid structure and fluid art at the same time, making it appealing



Joseph Harrison

to a wide audience."

"Poetry is particularly interesting to me as an expressive art in the way poets use very specific language and structures to create the precise emotion or effect they are wanting through their craft," Busby said. "It is especially interesting in that sense as a writer myself."

"To readers and those curious about poetry, I would tell to explore many writers and time periods," Harrison said.

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Nursing majors discuss 'The View' controversy, difficulties of the job

Quinta Goines
Contributor

"I hope you now realize what nurses do and how many of us there are."

Sarah Barnhill, a senior nursing major from Loxley, shared her thoughts about morning talk show hosts Michelle Collins and Joy Behar from "The View."

"We will continue to care for your loved ones and one day even you when you are at your weakest," Barnhill said. "We will help you maintain your dignity while giving you a bed bath; we will wake your doctor up at 2 a.m. to make sure you get the medicine you need, and we will give you our best even after you've shown us your worst."

Collins and Behar made comments about Miss Colorado's talent of choice during the Miss America pageant that was held on Sunday, Sept. 13. Kelley Johnson, Miss Colorado, recited a monologue for the talent portion of the competition about the responsibilities she has and the role she plays as a hospital nurse.

This prompted the hosts of "The View" to poke fun at her monologue, for wearing scrubs and what Behar called a "doctor's stethoscope."

"Why does she have a doctor's stethoscope around her neck?" Behar said.

"She basically read her emails out loud and shockingly did not win," Collins said.

Social media users took to the Internet to express their ill feelings toward the comments and to take a stand with Johnson about the duties nurses fulfill. Troy University nursing students also shared their reactions.

Brandey Fulmer, a senior nursing major from Wetumpka, said she did not originally watch "The View," but hearing about what was said made her upset. She now realizes that people do not understand all of the seriousness that comes along

with being a nurse.

"I don't think they intended to make fun of nurses," she said. "They just wanted something to talk about, and they were uneducated about the subject they decided to gossip about."

"Being a student nurse and ER tech, I work with nurses that, if they didn't have the stethoscope, they wouldn't be able to properly assess their patients," said Courtney France, a senior nursing major from Auburn, and an employee at the Jackson Hospital Emergency Room in Montgomery. "If a blood pressure monitor goes out, nurses use their stethoscope to take a client's blood pressure."

The comments made by the hosts of "The View" became costly when Johnson & Johnson and Egglund's Best Eggs announced they would no longer advertise on the show. Viewers in support of Miss Colorado and nurses also vowed not to watch the show.

Nicole Curlee, a senior nursing major from Prattville, said she will no longer watch "The View" because of their disparaging remarks.

"I watched the episode of 'The View' where they had the nurses on to apologize for the remarks, but I feel like they were just obligated to do it to make up for the backlash they received," Curlee said. "I still will not be watching the show anymore."

The hosts rendered a public apology after the fact, bringing nursing instructors from New York University to the show.

Aside from comments made about Miss Colorado being a nurse, nursing majors agree that it was disheartening to see women down the talents of other women.

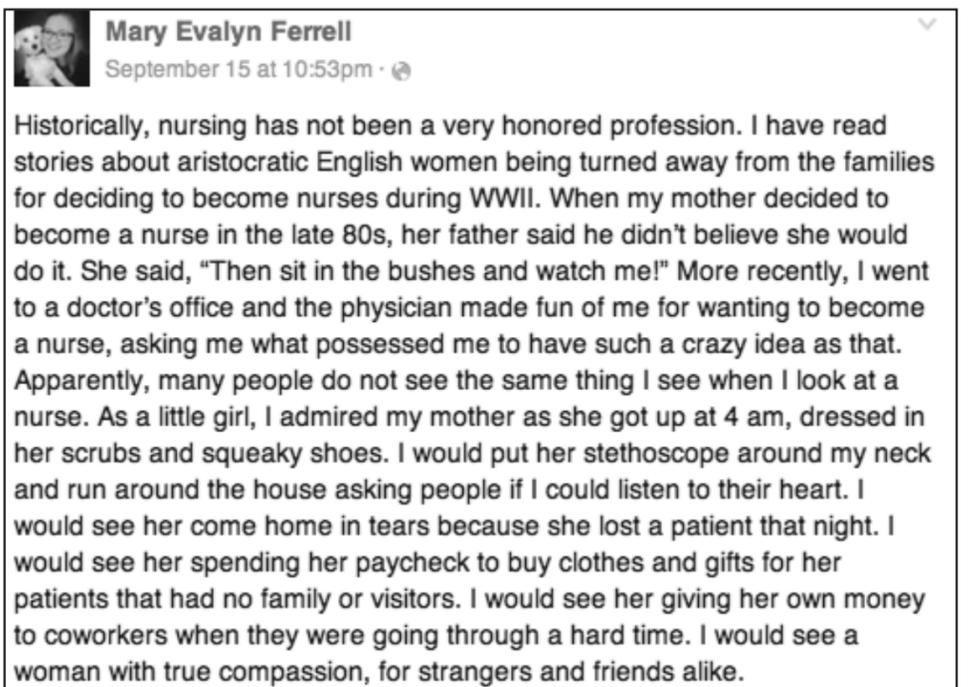
"I was kind of shocked to hear them putting down another woman that was brave enough to get on stage and perform a very different talent than Miss America is used to seeing," Barnhill said.



Alyse Nelson photo

Nicole Curlee, a senior nursing major from Prattville, posing with what a TV show host mistakenly called a "doctor's stethoscope."

One nursing major's story on Facebook



Mary Ferrell, a sophomore nursing major from Alpine, posted this status to Facebook about her reasoning behind pursuing a nursing degree and respecting the profession.



Editor's note: If any student has questions he or she would like for our staff to tackle, feel free to email features@tropnews.com with "Dear Trop" in the subject line. All students who send in questions will remain anonymous.

Dear Trop,

Dear Trop,
Everyone knows how expensive college is, and I know I should have been prepared. But I guess while I was in my parents' house I just couldn't imagine how hard it would be to pay for everything on my own.
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so much: it's a huge problem. But there are solutions.

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don't let any rejection slow your momentum.

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Cheers, Trop

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Olympics hopeful at Troy



Troy University athletics photo

Hassan Ndayishimiye, a junior sport management major from Bujumbura, Burundi, has until June to qualify for the 2016 Olympics.

Tennis player discusses qualifying to compete internationally while staying in school

Tori Roper
Staff Writer

For Hassan Ndayishimiye, a junior sport management major from Bujumbura, Burundi, the 2016 Olympics are just within his grasp.

Millions of people flock every four years to the Summer Olympics, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, but Ndayishimiye has the opportunity to compete for his home country as a tennis player.

While at a tournament in Istanbul, Ndayishimiye got the news that he had been selected by Burundi to compete in the Summer Olympics — if he is able to qualify.

“I’m representing my country, but, as a Trojan, I’m representing the Trojans too and the university,” Ndayishimiye said. “It was an honor to be selected to compete for my country and for Troy.”

Ndayishimiye has been a student at Troy for two semesters and said he

decided to come to Troy because of his “amazing coach” and the fact that Troy felt like home.

According to Scott Kidd, the head tennis coach, Ndayishimiye will be the

“We are confident that he will. It’s happening. We will make sure it happens.”
— Coach Scott Kidd

first Troy student-athlete to go to the Summer Olympics.

“He has to meet a certain qualification,

but he has until June to do it,” Kidd said. “We are confident that he will. It’s happening. We will make sure it happens.

“We are making smart decisions in training and schedules to make sure he is ready. We are making sure we pick the right tournaments as well.”

Ndayishimiye has been playing tennis since he was 5 years old and began competing when he was 10. His sister is ranked the No. 1 tennis player in Africa for ages 14 and under.

“Tennis was not a big sport in my country,” Ndayishimiye said. “It was there for rich people, but my background is of a poor family. My father was a coach at a club to provide for the family.

“I never knew it would take me this far,” Ndayishimiye said. “My father wanted me to play, but at first I didn’t like it. I liked to play soccer with my friends.

“I realized that when you play tennis and you win, you get some kind of present, so then I moved to tennis.”

Ndayishimiye said he is nervous about competing because it is “a completely different level.”

Kidd said that the players are required to have only 20 hours of practice a week, but that they can volunteer as many extra hours as they would like.

“We have an hour of fitness each day and then two hours of tennis,” Ndayishimiye said.

Although some players take the year off to prepare for the Olympics, Ndayishimiye said that he will remain in class and find a way to balance both.

“When I graduate, I want to go to professional events and play professional tennis,” he said.

Ndayishimiye said that professional tennis player Serena Williams is his role model when it comes to tennis because “she is a role model outside of the court as well as inside of the court.”

Ndayishimiye said that he misses his family but that he looks forward to making them proud at the Olympics.

Safe Zone for All’s fall training topics to include internationals, active military

Alyse Nelson
Features Editor

For its second semester in operation, the Safe Zone for All initiative training at Troy has expanded to include portions about international students and active military on campus.

For its inaugural training last spring semester, the Safe Zone for All initiative included sections on LGBT+ issues as well as the hearing impaired and otherwise disabled, but is “expanding on what there was last year,” according to Toni Davis, a graduate student involved with the program.

“We started this entirely grass-roots here at Troy,” Davis said, noting that many universities have similar programs.

“We’re discussing now what is our real focus and what we are,” Davis said. “It’s growing slowly, and at the same time we’re getting more organized and getting a better vision for the program.”

Davis said that the training is open to everyone on campus, and so far faculty members and student leaders have been signing up to attend.

“I think we’re going to become an entity that promotes, instead of tolerance, promotes what we call ‘radical inclusion,’” Davis said. “Tolerance is not enough.”

Stickers received after training can be placed anywhere, such as an

What: Training on how to treat those with disabilities or different groups of people.

When: Friday, Sept. 25, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Hawkins Hall room 107

What: The whole campus is invited to the Peace Walk. There will be buses for those unable to walk.

When: Saturday, Sept. 26, beginning at 10 a.m.

Where: Bibb Graves Quad

office door, to indicate that the area is a “safe zone.”

“It means that you have had the training and you are promoting diversity and inclusion,” Davis said. “People can feel safe there and talk about issues.”

The training is tomorrow, Sept. 25, and includes a morning session on the selected topics from 9 a.m. until noon.

From 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., there will be scenarios created by the Safe Zone for All initiative. The scenarios allow participants to see the mentioned problems firsthand.

The afternoon session is not required in order to receive a sticker, but you must attend in the morning in order to go in the afternoon.

There will also be a Peace Walk the next day, Saturday, Sept. 26, starting at 10 a.m. on the main quad.

The group can be reached at safezoneforall@troy.edu.

Last week's sudoku solution:

3	2	6	4	9	8	7	5	1
8	1	4	2	5	7	9	3	6
5	7	9	6	3	1	8	2	4
4	5	3	1	6	9	2	7	8
9	6	2	7	8	3	1	4	5
1	8	7	5	2	4	3	6	9
6	9	5	3	1	2	4	8	7
7	3	8	9	4	6	5	1	2
2	4	1	8	7	5	6	9	3

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Seth Nicholson

Johnson Center: funding, politics?

Ngoc Vo
Editor-in-chief

David Bronner's article in this month's issue of The Advisor, "Troy University's Johnson Center: A Poor Steward of the Truth," was quite an interesting read.

Bronner, as the CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, addresses in the RSA's newsletter Troy assistant professor Daniel Smith's editorial on AL.com, "RSA Is a Poor Steward of Our Retirement Resources."

I find the issue of public pensions a complicated one, though one comment from Bronner caught my attention.

In his article, Bronner referred to our Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy as "an institution which is partially funded by an organization that seeks to abolish public pensions." This left me with the impression that Bronner was implying a correlation between the center's funding and its position on the topic.

I couldn't help but wonder if such a connection exists and if the funding influences the Johnson Center's stance on other issues.

According to Stephen Miller, the center's director, it does not. Smith was asked about Bronner's article but he pointed to Miller for comments.

In 2010, the Charles Koch Foundation, along with Manuel Johnson and the BB&T Foundation, gifted \$3.6 million for the founding of the Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University. According to Miller, the money has been

"Think not just of efficiency, but also of equity and sustainability."

— Ngoc Vo

given in installments over five years.

Such donations have been scrutinized by several institutions, including the weblog ThinkProgress in its reporting "Koch fueling far right academic centers at universities across the country."

"I would not say (the center) is far-right at all," Miller said. "It doesn't make sense to call it far-right. This is an educational program, not political. For me 'political' has a very specific meaning: endorsing a candidate or a policy. ... We talk about policies, but we don't engage in political advocacy."

Miller, however, acknowledged everything eventually becomes political if policies are involved.

"We hold policy positions that can be considered right and left," he said.

Miller said that although the center's stance on issues varies depending on specific topics and circumstances, there is a consistency in the center's positions across issues: "less government, less regulation."

According to Miller, in general, the center's faculty members are aligned with its mission, focusing "on the moral imperatives of free markets and individual liberty, as well as relevant policy research on current and local issues."

Despite this shared view, Miller said, the center's faculty members have pure academic freedom to research whatever interests them.

"Their academic conclusions are their own," he said.

Daniel Sutter, Troy University's Charles G. Koch professor of economics, said he agreed with Miller's assessment about the consistency in the center's ideology.

"Speaking for myself as a faculty member," Sutter said, "the money (that) comes from the Johnson Center does not affect how I do my job."

Sutter said potential donors approaching universities often propose a deal for a cause or a purpose.

"In general, across the country, many potential donors often approach colleges and universities and offer gifts and funding that they hope would lead to certain types of research and activities to be done," he said. "It's up to the administration and the university which type of offers are to the best interest of the university and which to pursue or not pursue."

According to Steven Taylor, political science division chair, his department has not been approached with funding similar to that offered to the Johnson Center.

"In general, academia can be in a delicate position when funding is received from outside," Taylor said.

He mentioned hiring practices as something that private funding could influence at educational institutions.

"The donors have no influence on our hiring decisions," Miller said. "Hiring committees are made up of the faculty. What we look for is faculty candidates whose research and teaching are consistent with the center's mission."

Laura Burmeister, a social sciences assistant professor, said funding from institutions with political agendas drives educational agendas "completely and thoroughly."

"I was just told (last) week that I had to 'leave the personal out of the classroom' (from a superior within Troy's academic hierarchy), because I said privilege was real and was criticizing rational choice theory," she said. "I never got (these) restrictive mandates before the advent of the Johnson Center. So much for academic freedom."

This controversy reminds me of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporting by The New York Times' Eric Lipton. In his series, Lipton looked into how "Foreign Powers Buy Influence at Think Tanks."

While think tanks produce research as scientific basis for policies, academic centers produce students who will become educators, lawmakers and voters. Thus, I find the current trend of financial influence on these institutions alarming.

It would be a battle to discover and prevent such influences. It would be naive to say businesses seek no return of investment when pumping money into education programs. Students should be conscious of where the money comes from and of the consistency in donors' positions on issues.

On my soapbox, I would say: Know your professors' perspectives, and explore others to achieve a more well-rounded view of the world. Think not just of efficiency, but also of equity and sustainability. Raise questions if the pitfalls of pure capitalism are never mentioned in class. Think critically and comparatively.

Tech in classrooms

Katie Miller
Staff Writer

Freshman computer science major Chandler Robinson's chosen method of note-taking is his laptop, because he "can't write as well or as fast" as he can type.

Robinson, from Birmingham, is an advocate for technology inside the classroom.

"I won't have to handle a lot of papers that I'll probably lose," Robinson said, and he added that he is satisfied with the fact that all of his homework is online.

Robinson said he is able to stay focused with the task at hand when he is on his computer in the classroom.

McKinley Livingston, a sophomore nursing major from Decatur, is a supporter of technology in the classroom, as she is able to remain focused in class and use her laptop for classes that allow them.

Livingston said she believed that cellphones in class should not be as big an issue as people perceive them to be.

"I think that's completely dependent upon the student," she said. "I think it's less harmful because I've been in classes before where teachers have cut the entire class short because one person was on their cellphone."

When asked if he thought cellphones in the classroom were appropriate, Robinson said they could be helpful so long as there are guidelines.

"If you have to go to a site, you can go to the site (with a cellphone)," he said.

In terms of using various social media such as Facebook and Twitter in the classroom, Robinson said, "I think we should give kids the benefit of the doubt."

"I don't think it should be as big of a deal as people are making it," Livingston said.

Livingston said the use of technology that is not necessary within the classroom should be up to the user.

"If students are willing to be on their phones the entire class, it's their grade, and it's their problem," Livingston said.

However, technology can be very useful as long as it is utilized the right way.

"I really appreciate the use of Moodle (an open-source education platform) and educational videos because I think that helps the student to remember more of what they're learning because it's in a different type of format; it's something that's going to stick out to them," Livingston said.

Overall, a positive light was shed on the various uses of technology.

"In the long run, I think it's more efficient whenever you're mixing stuff in the classroom, and technology is one way that you can do that easily," Livingston said.

Chanukah Anderson, coordinator for testing and assessment at Troy University, said she uses technology every day in her classroom.

"Blackboard is generally the platform that a number of instructors use," Anderson said. "For me, it's helpful for students to have access to their grades, class announcements, bonus opportunities or class assignments. It's also important to reach students where they are — which in most cases is on their smartphones."

However, according to Anderson, technology can serve as a distraction in class.

"Many students also rent their textbooks and have them in e-book format," she said. "Having their device on hand is the equivalent to having their textbook."

"On the other hand, you find students who use their devices as a cover to check their Facebook, play games or do other things that aren't related to the lecture. For those students, they ultimately hurt themselves because they aren't actively engaged in the classroom and the information that's being presented."

As far as Troy University is concerned, the classrooms are kept up to date with the technology that is presented to the university.

"I started teaching back in 2008, and as new buildings have come to our campus, they are often upgraded with new technology that fits the classroom setting," Anderson said.

Personally, I enjoy sticking to the traditional way of note-taking and use only my notebook. I can't retain information unless I write it down myself.

However, typing on a laptop is much quicker and more efficient, and it's fortunate that, for the most part, our professors allow us to use our various technological devices.

I think technology such as slideshow presentations and even the occasional use of Facebook and YouTube is convenient within the classroom. It is the students' responsibility to complete their assignments to get the desired grade. If their personal devices serve as distractions, it is the students' job to put the devices away for the sake of their grades.

I do recognize that a good majority of students prefer using technology as a means of communication as well as studying because it helps them learn more efficiently. The way our devices are being constantly upgraded, I'd say getting a handle on laptops, tablets, smartphones and other devices is a smart decision.

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 opinions of their authors 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.

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Woes continue for volleyball

Sinclair Portis
Staff Writer

It was another tough weekend for the Trojan volleyball team, with a victory against Appalachian State 3-2 on Friday, Sept. 18, and a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Arkansas State on Monday, Sept. 21.

The Trojans took on the Mountaineers at home, looking to end their losing streak. The home team was in command for the first two sets, winning 25-20 in both. App State fought hard, but after losing an important player at the end of the second, it was not able to take the set.

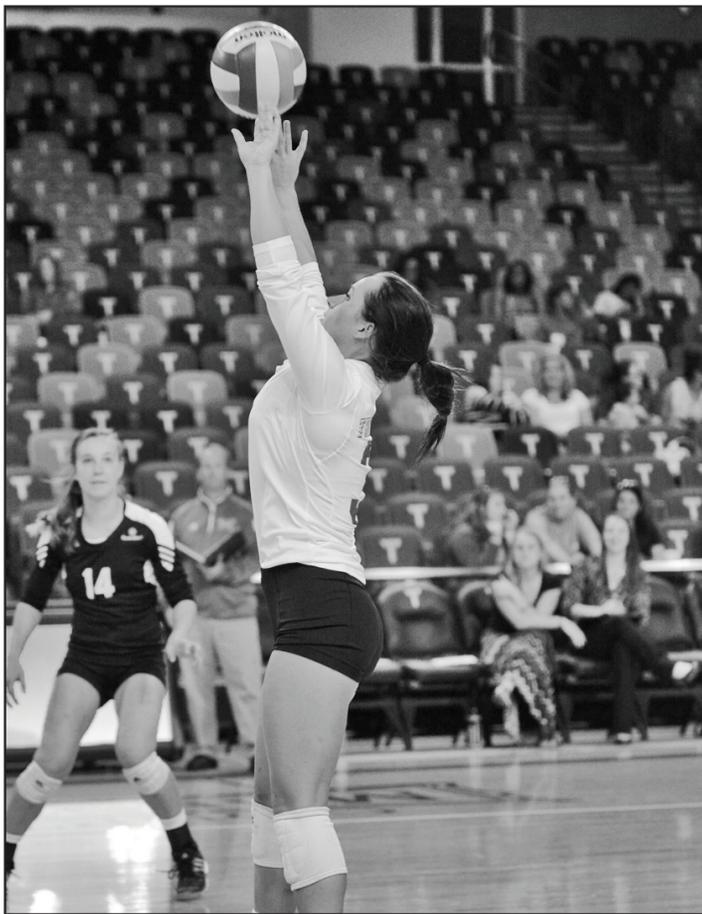
Ready to end the game on a sweep, the Trojans began the third set with an intense start and ties at 7-7 and 10-10. Appalachian State's game intensified as it gained the lead and took the third set from the Trojans, 25-21.

Appalachian State carried the momentum from winning the previous set and controlled the last two. The fourth set came with a battle from Troy, but the Trojans were not able to come back from their slump. The Mountaineers took control over the last set, securing the 3-2 victory.

Troy ended the game with an attack percentage of only .096 to Appalachian's .177. Junior middle hitter Leah Causey recorded a team-high 15 kills, and senior outside hitter Blaire Winston was right behind at 14. Defensively, senior defensive specialist Ali Dowdall led with 22 digs.

"It was a good match, but it really stinks to come out on the bottom of it," head coach Sonny Kirkpatrick said.

The Trojans returned to action on Saturday against Arkansas State, continuing the quest to end their losing streak. Troy again started with high energy, winning the first two sets 25-22 and 26-24.



April Irvin photo

Senior defensive setter Ali Dowdall led the Trojans in digs in both of their matches this weekend, recording a match-high 22 digs against Appalachian State and 16 against Belmont.

The Red Wolves came back though, gaining the lead at the start of the third set. They extended their lead as Troy seemed unable to get its momentum going, and they won the third set 25-12.

With Troy desperate for a win and Arkansas State unwilling to relinquish the match, both continued in the fourth set with ferocity. After tying the game eight times in a competitive set, the Red Wolves ran away and won the game 25-18.

In the fifth, Arkansas State took

a fast lead, and Troy did not attain a point until 10-1. Troy was unable to get out of that slump and lost its seventh match in a row 2-3.

Junior outside hitter Symone Shaw led the team with 11 kills, and the Trojans only calculated a hitting percentage of .121.

In high hopes, the Trojans will return to the court Friday, Sept. 25 at UALR. Start time is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

Cross country finishes fourth in Gainesville

Taylor Boydston
Staff Writer

The Trojans competed Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Mountain Dew Invitational, which was hosted by the University of Florida.

The race took place on the university's Mark Bostick Golf Course in Gainesville, Florida, where forty teams competed. The men's team began the day with an 8K race at 7:55 a.m., and the women's 5K took place shortly after. Both teams competed in the "University" section and were scored against Division I teams.

Of the 85 runners in the Division I scoring for men, six of them were Trojans. Freshman Brennan Garriques finished first of the Trojans, with a time of 26:32.15, placing him 27th overall. Following immediately behind him in 28th was Troy sophomore Dylan Ogburn.

Thirty-two seconds later, freshman Kyle Norris placed 35th, finishing at 27:04.65. Freshman Zachary Bias finished 42nd, junior Timothy Bulger finished in 53rd place, and finally, freshman Austin Gray finished 56th.

"Our men will be fine once we get everyone rolling at the same time," said head coach Elliot Blount, regarding the unusually small number of runners that competed. "We saw some huge improvement from a few runners. We are very young with a lot to learn."

The men's team took fourth place overall, with North Florida winning first place in the invitational.

Florida women won first place in the women's 5K, while the Trojans took tenth. Junior Mikayla Hodges led the Troy women with a time of 18:59.55. Senior Julia Ostendorf followed twelve seconds behind.

"On the women's side we didn't have the best day," Blount said. "We need to become more consistent with our races. We'll get some good training the next couple of weeks and hope to get back on track."

Juniors Katrina Bokenfohr and Keaton Wallace finished with times of 20:47.99 and 20:58.76, respectively, while Naomi Sheppard and Sarah Zylstra finished five seconds apart later in the race. It was a tough meet, but according to Blount, his team is determined to improve for the future.

Both teams return to action on Saturday, Oct. 3, when they will participate in the JSU Foothills Invitational in Oxford.

Pigskin Picks

Week 3
Current Leader:
T. Gleaton



Ngoc Vo
(20-10)



Sinclair Portis
(20-10)



Michael Shipma
(19-11)



Taylor Boydston
(21-9)



April Irvin
(20-10)



Thomas Gleaton
(22-8)



Chase Robinson
(21-9)



Joshua Thurston
(16-14)

	Ngoc Vo (20-10)	Sinclair Portis (20-10)	Michael Shipma (19-11)	Taylor Boydston (21-9)	April Irvin (20-10)	Thomas Gleaton (22-8)	Chase Robinson (21-9)	Joshua Thurston (16-14)
Boise State @ Virginia	Boise State	Virginia	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Virginia	Boise State
#24 Oklahoma State @ Texas	Texas	Texas	Oklahoma St.	Texas	Oklahoma St.	Oklahoma St.	Texas	Texas
Miss. State @ Auburn	Miss. State	Auburn	Miss. State	Miss. State	Miss. State	Miss. State	Auburn	Miss. State
#9 UCLA @ #16 Arizona	UCLA	UCLA	Arizona	UCLA	UCLA	Arizona	UCLA	UCLA
#18 Utah State @ #13 Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon
N. Illinois @ Boston College	NIU	NIU	NIU	NIU	NIU	NIU	Boston College	Boston College
Bowling Green @ Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue
Indiana @ Wake Forest	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	Wake Forest	Indiana
Virginia Tech @ East Carolina	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech
#3 TCU @ Texas Tech	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	Texas Tech	TCU



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Trojan Laundry 2 Go, a pickup and delivery laundry service serving the Troy area, recently had a drawing for a free semester of laundry service.

The owner, Mike Carnley (left), is presenting a laundry bag to freshman KC Armstrong. Congratulations to KC.

Mr. Carnley will pick her laundry up on Tuesdays and have it back on Thursdays washed, dried and folded.

Trojan Laundry 2 Go is running a huge discount for the rest of the semester.

If interested in a discount call:
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Troy cruises into Sun Belt play

Scott McLendon
Staff Writer

The Trojan soccer team dominated both the stat sheets and the score lines this weekend, defeating Tennessee Tech 3-0 on Friday, Sept. 18, and Belmont by a slimmer margin of 2-1 on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Three Trojans found the back of the net en route to a road victory against Tennessee Tech (2-4-3, 0-0 Ohio Valley). Senior defender Payton Donley of Woodstock, Georgia, scored her first goal of the season in the 43rd minute as Troy (7-2, 0-0 Sun Belt) gained the lead it maintained to the final whistle. The goal was assisted by sophomore forward Natalie Melilo.

Senior forward Chelsey Williams scored her fourth goal of the season and the Trojans' second of the game in the 54th minute.

The 89th minute brought the final nail in the Golden Eagles' coffin. Freshman forward Brooke McKee of Madison, Alabama, showed an eye for goal again this season, putting the ball past UTT freshman goalkeeper Kari Naerdemann.

"This was a good win for the team; we went out and executed our game plan. Playing on the road is always tough," head coach Jason Hamilton said. "Tennessee Tech is a good team, defensively only giving up six goals in their previous seven games. We've been asking our team to be more opportunistic all season and we definitely were today."

The Trojans outshot the Golden Eagles 13-10; forced more saves, 4-5; and were more accurate with eight shots on target to Tennessee Tech's 4.



April Irvin photo

Senior midfielder Alissa Jones scored her third goal of the season on Monday, Sept. 20, against Belmont in the Trojans' final non-conference game. Troy went on to win 2-1 against the Bruins.

The second game of the weekend, at Belmont, proved to be the taller task for the Trojans.

Statistically, the Trojans' more dominant performance came in their second match of the weekend. Belmont was outshot 15-8 and forced into more saves, recording nine to the Trojans' four.

Senior midfielder Alissa Jones made her third goal of the season to break the deadlock in the 40th minute.

Junior midfielder Meg Howard scored the lone goal for Belmont in the 79th minute. However, it was sophomore defender Haley Roberson, who scored her first goal of the season and sealed the Sunday match.

"We are extremely proud of the ladies in their effort today," Hamilton said. "Anytime you can go on the road and win two games it is a very good effort from the team. Sunday games are extremely hard because you have been on the road for three or four days."

Belmont brought in an amazing level of energy, but we were able to match that energy. Now we will turn our focus to beginning conference play."

McKee continued her accurate form, with three of three shots on target, yet this yielded no goals.

Freshman goalkeeper Sydny Tucker of Phoenix, Arizona, made her second start in a row for the Trojans. She denied the Bruins four times in an impressive outing.

The Trojans make their way back home to face the South Alabama Jaguars. The in-state rivalry reignites on Friday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.

Offensive struggles plague Trojans as they lose 28-3 at Wisconsin

Michael Shipma
Sports Editor

The Troy University football team was defeated 28-3 at No. 24 Wisconsin on Saturday, Sept. 19. The Trojans (1-2, 0-0 Sun Belt) gave the home team trouble with their defense, but the offense struggled to make progress against the top-25 powerhouse.

"I'm proud of our guys," said head coach Neal Brown following the loss. "They're obviously disappointed. Anytime you put that much time and effort into something like we do each week, the staff and the players — I want them to walk out of here with their chest out."

The Badgers (2-1, 0-0 Big Ten) drew first blood, as junior running back Dare Ogunbowale scored on a 17-yard touchdown run with 6:49 left in the first quarter. Ogunbowale rushed for 75 yards on 14 carries to go along with his touchdown.

The Trojans bounced back with a 12-play, 65-yard drive, looking to even the score. An offensive pass interference call on Troy halted the drive, and the Badgers held the visitors to a field goal.

The remainder of the game belonged to Wisconsin, however, as the Badgers

scored 21 unanswered points to put the game out of Troy's reach.

Senior quarterback Joel Stave pushed the lead to 14-3 on a four-yard touchdown run, ending a near quarter-long scoring drought from either side. Stave finished the night 13 for 17 passing, with 202 yards through the air, one rushing touchdown and a touchdown pass. The run came at 39 seconds left in the first half, as the Trojans were unable to keep the Badgers from the crucial score.

The run game of Wisconsin was the thorn in the Trojan's side, as the Badgers racked up 199 yards on the ground, in comparison to Troy's 88. While the Trojan defense proved relatively strong given the competition, the Big Ten powerhouse simply overwhelmed the defense with extended drives that took time off the clock and wore down the Trojans.

Senior safety Tanner McEvoy further widened the gap between the two teams, scoring a 32-yard rushing touchdown. Wisconsin closed out the scoring on a touchdown pass from Stave to senior tight end Austin Traylor for a one-yard score, making the score 28-3 with 5:07 left in the game.

Sophomore quarterback Brandon Silvers completed 23 of 34 passes for 174 yards and no interceptions.

"This is the best game we've played



Irey Walker photo

Senior wide receiver Teddy Reuben (pictured at the Charleston Southern game) and the Trojan offense couldn't score a touchdown against Wisconsin on Saturday. Reuben made four catches for 15 yards.

out of the three games," Brown said. "I thought we had some chances to take the lead in the first half, but we didn't take advantage of the opportunities. I'm proud of the guys. We got beat by a better football team and we're ready for this bye week."

The Trojans will have time to clean up mistakes and tidy up both sides of the ball as they go into a bye week. Troy will return to action on Saturday, Oct. 3, when they welcome rival South Alabama to Veterans Memorial Stadium. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.

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