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Revitalizing Rust: A Work in Progress

U A P B geared for cyberinfrastructure

By Michael Payne & Oliver Dillingham

Special to the Arkansawyer

When it comes to education theory and practice are two equally important parts to gaining a complete understanding of a concept.

The Arkansas Minority Cyberinfrastructure Training, Education Consortium (AMC -TEC) allows students of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

AMC -TEC is a unique interdisciplinary cyberinfrastructure (CI) educational community within Arkansas to educate currently underrepresented groups of students, and faculty in cyberinfrastructure-oriented concepts, theories, practices, and principles within Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics (STEM) at teaching-oriented Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Designed to increase and broaden the participation of diverse groups of people and organizations as both creators and users of cyberinfrastructure for research and education, AMC -TEC is setting the foundation to push the delivery of education at UAPB further into the 21st century.

What was once only possible through internships a far is now available in the comfort of our own back yard. So what does that mean for us as students?

Well if you've been in Caine-Gilleland Hall (Academic II) lately you may have noticed the new Mac Security Lab on the first floor. Or maybe even the new "smart" classrooms one the first and second floors.

AMC -TEC seeks to introduce a new hybrid curriculum here at the university. Existing STEM courses have been modified on campus to include CI technologies and educational tools.

We as students won't be the only ones with a new classroom experience.

Our instructors are also back in the classroom participating in workshops in Computational Science here on campus to give us more for those student loans that still haven't posted to our accounts yet.

But maybe where we'll see the biggest effect on us is when we aren't even on the campus of UAPB.

AMC -TEC will also be sponsoring opportunities for students to attend conferences and workshops across the country like when it sponsored more than a dozen students (myself included) to attend Supercomputing 2010 (SC10) for a week in New Orleans, LA last November.

Continued on Pg. 2



The present state of Rust Technology Hall.

By Brittney McBride

The Arkansawyer Staff Writer

According to Dr. Charles Colen, the history of industrial technology on the campus of UAPB is very rich.

The department formerly was strictly to teach vocational skills for the majors.

However, over the years, the focus changed.

The need for those skills still exists, but the realm of what a "technologist" should know has expanded.

Industrial Technology was a department in the 1980's, but enrollment was declining in the 90's and was changed to program status under the Department of Mathematical Sciences and Technology.

In the late 90's, the

number of Industrial Technology majors at UAPB was less than 50.

"The program's accreditation status with the National Association for Industrial Technology (NAIT) was about to be revoked," said Charles Colen, Chairman of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's Department of Mathematics.

Plans were being made to possibly omit the program from the campus and demolish Rust Technology Hall.

However, in the fall semester of 1998, things began to change within the Industrial Technology department.

Colen, a UAPB graduate and instructor who had

been funded by Title III to obtain his Doctorate degree in Industrial Technology, returned to his alma mater to help revitalize the field.

"The program and building had been characterized as possible items on the chopping block," said Colen.

"It required a lot of hard work, determination, and assistance from the UAPB family and supporters, but now Industrial Technology at UAPB are considered one of the signature departments on campus."

The faculty works to develop all facets of their majors from academics, attire, interviewing skills, internships and tips on how to be a professional.

Even the Rust Technology

Building is getting a "face-lift."

With the help and funding of Title III and the American Recovery Act (ARA) the Rust Tech building is currently being renovated to feature Arkansas Disability Act Upgrades, a Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning System, multi-purpose classrooms, smart boards, a lecture hall, new floors, ceilings and walls.

Renovations began in early August of 2010 and are planned to be completed by the end of the summer.

The students will benefit in a number of ways from the renovations.

The upgrades to the Rust Technology building have not gone unnoticed by the students.

"I think its something that we need here on campus," said Spencer Goodwin, a junior Industrial Technology major. "It will be beneficial to the IT students. With a better facility, we can achieve more in the classroom as well as the department."

After renovations, the department plans to receive full accreditation status by the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering, re-established department as one of the top ten majors at UAPB and possibly a name change to the Department of Technology Management and Applied Engineering, pending approval.

Changes to Miss UAPB Pageant

By Byrhonda Lyons

Editor-In-Chief

From the Broadway Joe Morning Show on Power 92.3 FM radio station to heated meetings between the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's administration and the Student Government Association, the debate about the Miss UAPB pageant has traveled all over, to end in a pageant and a student vote.

The only difference in this year's pageant is the pageant being used as an elimination round. The top two contestants in the pageant will run for Miss UAPB and be voted on by the student body.

Initially, the change was supposed to allow contestants to revive sponsors and compete in the Miss Arkansas pageant. Of

course, this would have also ended the student body's tradition of voting for Miss UAPB.

"I started talking about changing it three years ago because we were spending too much money on Miss UAPB," said Elbert Bennett, Administrative Coordinator for Student Affairs.

According to Bennett, state laws and mandates prohibit the university from buying attire for Miss UAPB.

In the 2009-2010 school year, an internal audit of the Miss UAPB and coronation accounts revealed the university expended \$19,316 for personal clothing and care for pageant participants. As of June 30, 2010, those accounts have yet to be reimbursed as recommended by the University of Arkansas

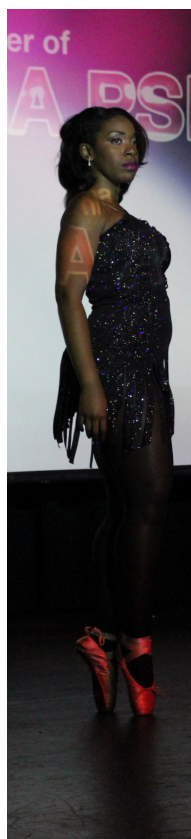
System Legislative Joint Committee.

The idea was to have a pageant determine Miss UAPB. Then, seek sponsors for her clothing allowance.

However, that plan was met with so much opposition that the administration and student body finally settled on the current selection process.

The pageant will be held on Friday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Admissions for the students are \$2 with a student identification card and \$5 without.

According to Ledora Stribling, SGA President, students will be able to vote Monday, April 25 by using their blackboard login information.



Performances at the Miss Kappa Alpha Psi Pageant. Miss Jayo Owens was crowned Miss KAY 2011-2012.

Apr. 22



Partly Cloudy/Wind

86° / 66°
HI LO

10%
Chance of Rain

Apr. 23



Partly Cloudy/Wind

84° / 66°
HI LO

20%
Chance of Rain

Apr. 24



Mostly Cloudy

84° / 67°
HI LO

30%
Chance of Rain

Apr. 25



Sunny

80° / 63°
HI LO

50%
Chance of Rain

INSIDE

Don't shoot the messenger

NEWS & ARTS.....2
SPORTS.....3
OPINIONS.....4

Florida A & M to Cut Jobs



By Matthew Richardson & Kristen Swilley
The Famuan

Florida A&M University President James Ammons announced Monday that about 200 employees will be laid off at the end of June and 22 academic programs will be cut as part of a major

restructuring proposal to deal with budget cuts. The layoff will mostly affect clerical and administrative staff; however some faculty positions will be lost, Ammons said. "With the plan that we have developed,

we are hoping that this will be at least a two-year plan so we won't have to come back here next year with this kind of discussion," Ammons told an audience of about 200 people. "But we won't know until the legislature (session) finishes."

According to administrative officials, since 2007, Florida A&M has experienced a \$35 million reduction to its budget. Now, the university must address the potential 15 percent projected cut, which would result in a \$13.3 million reduction for FAMU in fiscal year 2011-12. This reduction will occur in addition to the loss of \$7.9 million in stimulus funding.

"If those cuts are deeper than we think, we are going to have to come back here next year and have this same conversation because the money just won't be there," Ammons said.

While many wondered if additional cuts would be made to the school's budget, Ammons said he believed that this year wouldn't be the last year for belt tightening.

As part of the restructuring, 86 filled positions will be eliminated as well as 110 employees who are now being paid with stimulus funds.

Ten academic programs could be merged and several others might be eliminated.

Ammons said that his team looked at enrollment, number of degrees granted, number of grant dollars generated by faculty in those departments. Programs that fell into any of these categories were classified as low-productivity.

"We're not recommending that we eliminate every program that was on the Board of Governors list because we believe that some of those programs are important to our mission," Ammons said.

The audience uttered disapproval when Ammons said seven programs were on the chopping block from a single school, the College of Education.

Some of the programs from the College of Education include the bachelor's of both art and business education. Master's in both

math and English education are also on the chopping block.

First-year education student Makia Edwards, 19, is concerned about her future and those of her classmates.

"I can't believe they're cutting all of those programs," Edwards said. "They are missing out on a lot of good potential students. Many people rely on FAMU as their only way to get an education."

Edwards, an Orlando resident, said that her confidence in FAMU has teetered a bit since learning what programs may be cut.

"This is a place that I would want to send my kids one day, and now I can't even be sure the programs they want will be here," Edwards said.

Knowing that FAMU's hip-hop institute was not one of the 22 endangered programs sent some in the audience into a small uproar.

However, Ammons defended the program by saying that the institute is part of the younger generation's culture.

"I know there are some of us who don't identify with hip-hop," Ammons said. "Hip-hop is part of our culture and I think if we're going to have a university that is truly a place of education, all of those issues within our culture should be provided to our student body."

But among all of the reductions, the one that could possibly hurt the most could be the layoffs of long-time employees. As part of the forum, the university had packets available for stress relief and unemployment benefits.

Employees like George Brumao, 51, who rely on a steady paycheck to support his family, hopes that he will not have to use one of those packets.

"I'd be able to make it a little bit beyond paycheck to paycheck, but if I missed more than two, I'd be in a really tough situation," said Brumao, who has been working at Coleman Library for more than 11 years.

For the full report of the proposed restructuring plan visit Ammons' restructuring website.

Matthew Richardson and Kristen Swilley write for The Famuan, the Florida A&M University student newspaper, which originally published this article.

Rising Gas Prices Hitting Students Hard

By Ashley Gasden
The Campus Echo

Regardless of what grade of gas you use, gas prices are on the rise once again. The increase in gas prices is hitting N.C. Central University students hard.

And with increased turmoil in the Middle East, especially in oil-producing countries like Libya and Bahrain, prices are likely to continue to rise.

"It's killing me," said Charles Robinson, junior music industry. Robinson commutes about ten minutes each day to school in his 2010 Ford Focus.

Robinson said he usually spends \$15 for a half tank — a financial dent for a college student working a minimum wage job.

According to Robinson, that half tank will last him a week, but only if he travels directly between his house and school.

According to CNNMoney.com, the price of crude oil now stands at \$103 per barrel, the highest level since 2008.

The consequence? One price hike after another at the pump. On Fridays there was an overnight 6-cent jump.

The average price for a gallon of gasoline in the United States \$3.29. An Exxon station next to campus was selling its regular grade for \$3.39 per gallon on Sunday.

"That's enough to hurt consumers, many of whom are underemployed or unemployed," writes the Lundberg Survey of fuel prices.

According to Lundberg, "gas prices are up nearly 50 cents a gallon since last September."

There are many contributing factors to the increase in gas prices, including rising demand in China and India.

Although the United States consumes the most oil per capita, China's oil consumption is expected to rise 5 percent next year, which



A comedic view on current gas prices.

compares with less than 1 percent growth forecast in the United States. But recent hikes are specifically tied to geo-political forces.

Instability in the Middle East, especially Libya, is definitely playing a role in the price jump.

Libya, the world's 15th largest oil exporter, exports more than 1.2 million barrels of crude oil a day.

Rising demand and instability in the Middle East has led Fred Rozell, a gasoline analyst with OPIS, Oil Price Information Service, to predict that 15 states will see gas prices at \$4 a gallon by Memorial Day.

But some students aren't fretting about the price of gas. Namely those who shuttle from nearby campus housing communities like Campus Crossings and The Verge.

"I'm an avid rider of the shuttle," said English education sophomore Riyadh Exum.

Exum said the shuttle is a better alternative for her. "I don't have a car because gas is extremely too high."

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Ashley Gadsen writes for The Campus Echo, the N.C. Central University student newspaper, which originally published this article.

KUAP Upgrades to 50,000 Watts

By Marian Smith
The Arkansawyer Staff Writer

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's radio station, 89.7 KUAP, has upgraded to the wattage to expand the listening area of the station. Initially, the station was only using 6,000 watts. Thanks to the extension, it has moved to 50,000.

The radio expansion project had been in the making for a few years. Listeners in the Little Rock area wanted to be able to hear the programming KUAP offered, but they could only get the station in their cars. Expansion was the only way to aid the supporters of the station. The upgrades to the station broadened the listening audience.

"We wanted the station to reach throughout the Delta,"

said Finley Hill, the station manager. "Now the station can be heard from as far as Russellville, Arkansas to Forrest City. People have also said you can hear it near Grambling."

In order to ensure that the development of the radio station took place, 89.7 KUAP had to apply for expansion.

The Federal Communications Commission had to approve the application before the extension could begin. "It took about a year for the entire process to be complete. The actual expansion only took about three months," stated Hill.

The cost of the expansion project was over \$300,000. Title III Funding, a "program [that] helps eligible IHEs to become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve

low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of eligible institutions," aided in the funding of the project.

The station still plans on functioning the same way it did prior to the expansion.

"We will continue to make sure that the information about what is going on at UAPB gets out to the public," said Hill. Students at the university will also benefit from the latest development from the radio station by gaining more experience with the new technology that is offered.

Cyber continued...

At SC10, students from UAPB were able to experience an international lineup of celebrated speakers, panel participants, presentations, workshops and exhibits featuring the latest breakthroughs in high-performance computing, networking, storage and analysis.

Being in the midst of an unprecedented array of scientists, engineers, researchers, educators, programmers, system administrators, developers and program managers and an exceptional program of technical papers, tutorials and timely research posters gave us a chance to network (and for some gain mentors) with the best and brightest minds around the world.

We will be able to greatly surpass anything that could have seen or heard of on campus. SC10 served to motivate all who attended from the university to strive be a part of the innovation that we were seeing first hand. That is what AMC-TEC all about.

Being able to inspire and guide the minds of the generation of minority scholars to make an impact on the world in which they live in.

The Arkansas Minority Cyberinfrastructure Training, Education Consortium is giving a breath of fresh air to the students, faculty, and staff at this Land Grant institution and brings the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff one step closer to fulfilling its ever evolving mission.

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Rebound, Rebuild, Reclaim: UAPB male basketball team prepares for a new year

By Byrhonda Lyons
Arkansawyer Editor-in-Chief

A year ago everyone was singing his praises as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's (UAPB) Golden Lion basketball team clinched their first Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) championship.

He made history as UAPB competed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament.

Noted for his coaching ability and his stylish suits, Head Coach George Ivory set a high standard here at UAPB. The standard was so high; even he couldn't do it consecutively.

"Life is like a roller coaster, then it drops...but what should I scream for this is my theme park," said rapper Lil' Wayne in the 2009 release of "Forever" by Eminem.

This verse describes the 'hoop squad' indefinitely.

After having such a successful year, the basketball team went into this season



Courtesy of www.syracuse.com

with the same high hopes. Unfortunately, this year was anything but a repeat.

Going 7-24 overall and 7-11 conference, the team faced many obstacles that

seem to have gotten the best of them.

"We had a lot of injuries, and our chemistry was not good," said Ivory.

In addition to the obvious setbacks, a few players had to sit out most of the

season due to late eligibility clearance. This is one hold-up Ivory expects to use to his advantage during the next season.

"The guys that sat out got to know each other so that will make it easier for them," Ivory added.

Coach Ivory has wasted no time preparing for next year's team.

"We had some problems with rebounds, free-throws and decision-making," he said. "But we also have great guard play and a strong inside presence with Daniel Broughton and Terrell Kennedy.

Senior, Allen Smith, lead the team's statistics this year while junior Salvace Townsend, Kennedy and Broughton followed, respectfully.

Having four starters return to the team and looking to gain about four new players, Ivory is quite optimistic about next season.

"We are looking for shooters who can run fast, jump high and be tough," said Ivory.

So far, three people have signed letters of intent for UAPB.

Lazabian Jackson, 6'3 guard from Shelton State Junior College, Jamar Harris, 6'7 from Mississippi Delta Junior College, and Jalen Floyd, 6'6 native of Detroit, MI, are all expected to play here at UAPB.

"Next year fans can look forward to an exciting team that is up-tempo," said Ivory. "We have some outstanding support from the faculty, staff and the student body. We have the best fans in the SWAC."

According to Coach Ivory, the Golden Lions plan on winning the SWAC title and entertaining the crowd with more dunks.

Inside glimpse at the UAPB girl's tennis team

By Brennon Keys
Arkansawyer Staff Writer

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's tennis team is poised to make a run at a Southwestern Athletic Conference title this spring. This potential is no longer limited to the men's side, however, as the women's team features some new talent as well.

The Lady Lions return senior Stephanie Forte and juniors Jarissa Greenard and Lauren Valecillos. They also introduce freshmen faces Fabiola Cardoso and Mariel Cabane, providing the ladies with a solid lineup to build upon.

"I think we should finish in the top four," predicts head coach Robert Cain. "Coming from last year, anything above that would be exceptional. The girls are working hard. If they keep up their ethic, this should be a great season."

Returning from the men's team are



Courtesy of www.uapblionsraors.com

juniors Hugo Gomez and Jorge Villacis, along with sophomores Eduardo Luque, Tito Bonadonna and David Gomez Carrasco. The Golden Lions are the two-time defending champions of the SWAC's West Division, and are looking to elevate

their game and capture the elusive conference tournament title.

"The sky's the limit," said Cain. "Work ethic is the only thing in question. We need to get this thing going in the right direction. But they can go as far as they

choose to."

UAPB's Athletic Department is in the process of bringing more matches closer to Pine Bluff for the convenience of student fans. Much progress has been made, including several matches in the spring on campus and at Burns Park in North Little Rock.

Cain is expecting the arrival of another Lady Lion in the spring, Martha Villacis, sister of Jorge. Along with two more possible male recruits, Cain sees the team as a whole making a stronger push in doubles competition.

"If we can win the doubles points we'll be able to win more team matches," he explained. "We've got to not only win the matches we're supposed to win, but the matches where we have to dig down and fight and claw. I don't know if we're where we need to be, but again, the sky's the limit."

For more info on how to support the Golden Lions during the school year, contact Coach Robert Cain by phone at (870)575-8869 or via e-mail at cainr@uapb.edu.



UAPB Women's Soccer Team volunteer with children in the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County area



UAPB Golden Lions play in Black and Gold Game

Florida A&M University gives basketball coach the pink slip

By Royal Shepherd -- Black College Wire

After four seasons of "underachieving," Florida A&M University has parted ways with former head basketball coach Eugene Harris.

Harris was notified of his termination in a four-paragraph letter he received in an afternoon meeting with Athletic Director Derek Horne.

During his tenure as head coach, Harris amassed a record of 46-80. Over the course of the past two seasons, the losses are double the total of the wins at 21-42. This season completed his third consecutive of 20-plus losses.

Coach Harris was fired after 3 consecutive 20+ loss seasons

Harris was in the fourth year of a 5-year contract at an annual rate of \$150,000 per year. He will remain on administrative leave with pay until June 10, according to the FAMU press release.

Harris replaced former head coach Mike Gillespie in 2007. Gillespie coached the Rattlers for six seasons, earning two NCAA post-season appearances.

Amin Stevens, the team's leading scorer and rebounder, still sees the team getting better despite the loss of his only collegiate coach.

"Administration made the move that they felt was in the best interest of the team," Stevens said. "No matter who coaches this

team, we are going to keep working hard and get better as a unit."

Assistant Coach Maurice Sheals will take over the day-to-day operations of the team. Stevens said that the growth of this team is not subjective to who the coach may be.

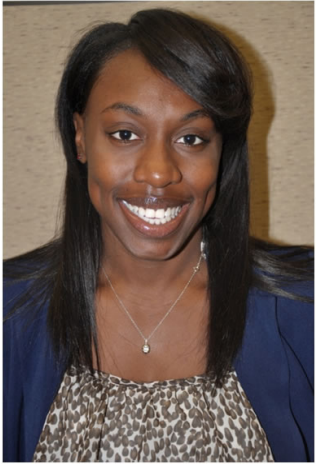
"I work my butt off to make myself better," Stevens said. "Coaches can teach you a lot, but you have to have the desire to get better. This team has that desire."

Coach Harris was a three-year starter and co-captain of the 1978 Florida State team that won the Metro Conference title.

A search committee is being formed immediately to find Harris' replacement.



Meet the Miss UAPB Contestants



Name: Tiffany K. Anderson
 Hometown: Stone Mountain, Georgia
 Classification/Major: Junior, Biology
 Motto: "Your past is not your potential. In any hour, you can choose to liberate the future."

Name: Alisha B. Dowd
 Hometown: Pine Bluff, Arkansas
 Classification/Major: Advanced Senior, Agriculture Business
 Motto: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."



Name: Jamie R. Robbins
 Hometown: Pine Bluff, Arkansas
 Classification/Major: Junior, English
 Motto: "Never underestimate the power of prayer!"

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Don't shoot the messenger
 Don't Shoot the Messenger Statement
 Don't Shoot the Messenger is for entertainment purposes only. These remarks do not represent the opinions of the Arkansawyer staff, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff or Student Affairs.

1. So, the Sigma's are stepping harder than the Omega's? #WhatsReallyGood
2. Was it me, or did we expect more from the Alphas? #StillFrozen?
3. Is the SGA president an Alpha or not? #WeJustWantToKnow
4. How many people were crying in the stands because their line got dropped? #Fall2K11
5. S/O to #DeltaEta and #AP! #KnuckIfY-ouBuck
6. Speaking of Delta Eta and AP, are they @ratchett, @hood, or @basic? #YouChoose
7. Should they just start going to the prison to recruit? #ComingSoon...New-EpisodeOfLockup
8. Aren't we glad we made it through the @KAPsi pageant without any Crip/Blood drama? #PraiseTheLord
9. Didn't the Nupes have the best pageant this year? #YouBeKillinEm
10. Isn't there a lack of talent on this campus? #WeGot-taDoBetter
11. Did you read the front page about the \$19,000 that is supposed to be reimbursed? #WhereDa-

12. How did Founder's Day go? #Insert-CricketsHere
13. Is it safe to say Founder's Day is for old people? #RetirementParty
14. Who's ready for graduation? #PompAndCircumstance
15. Alan Sugg vs. Michelle Obama? #YouBeTheJudge
16. Does the Class of 2011 feel shorthanded? #LowBudget
17. How many coaches are glad Skip is gone? #YouWould-HaveBeenFired
18. Now that Suggs is leaving, how long do we have before Jr. is gone? #Looon-gOverdue
19. Is it safe to say that once he's going to take a lot of people with him? #RidingTheBandwagon
20. Will we get our \$19,000 then? #ImJustSayin
21. Speaking of Miss UAPB allowances, should you really be running? #Runaway-Fellon
21. Are you surprised that we're asking where the cash at? #FedUp



Media Needs to Broaden Beauty Standards

By Marian Smith
 The Arkansawyer Staff Writer

According to fullandfabulous.org, "the 'ideal' woman is five feet, seven inches tall, weighs 100 pounds, and wears a size eight." However, some college students think she should have full breasts, no waist and a firm, sculpted gluteus maximus. Her hair should be long and flowing; and she should wear make-up that looks as if it was sprayed on. This woman is the object of the average man's affection; and the envy of certain women. It is as if the world is in the palm of her hand and anything she desires she gets without hesitancy.

This "ideal" look is seen in various forms of media, such as in magazines, in movies, and on television screens. Young girls see these women on numerous occasions and begin to believe that that look is the standard of beauty.

When someone doesn't fit in with the standard, the media attacks. You can find close-ups of these women on the tabloids in the campus bookstore, highlighting their latest plastic surgery or what they look like without make-up. When the media persistently critiques physical appearance, it can begin to impact one's self-esteem. I don't believe that it should be like this and when I think about this, I wonder: what makes that look ideal?

Now, I am not being a hater; I just want to know who sets the standard for what physical appearance is superior. Is there a committee? Do they have roundtable discussions on what the criteria is based? I think that is unfair for media

to have the power to determine what is or is not beautiful. We all are individuals who are entitled to have different opinions on what we like and/or dislike. That's where beauty lies: in diversity. It lies in white and black; big and small; tall and short. Beauty can be found in the big cities, in small towns, and even in third-world countries. The media should embrace all forms of beauty, and not single out just one. Tyra Banks, a former supermodel and television host, is one person in the media who highlights the assortment of beauty in the world.

The B.I.O. (Beauty Inside & Out) Campaign is an initiative started by Tyra Banks in 2009. The mission for the campaign is to help women redefine beauty. "It's time to expand the definition of beauty by telling the media, and showing them, that we are all beautiful and that we are not going to sit down in that narrow little box of theirs," said Banks.

On her webpage, www.tyra.com, she allows visitors to post a 30-second video on how they are going to "expand the definition of beauty." She even states that she will personally view every video that is uploaded to the site.

More people need to take a stand on redefining what is beautiful. The media would no longer be able to dictate on beauty if everyone believed and expressed that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder." When people begin to feel comfortable with themselves, the definition of beauty will blossom.

Florida's New Anti-Sagging Law Gets Support

By Khristanda Cooper
 The Famuan

A few weeks ago a bill was passed in our lovely state of Florida that banned the common fashion statement of sagging pants for individuals in grades K-20. Pause. Does this mean that I no longer have to walk around campus looking at people's underwear?

Praise God! Don't get me wrong, fashion statements are just that. However, I (and I'm sure many others would agree) do not want to know if you wear boxers or briefs, nor do I want to know if Hanes or Fruit of the Loom is your brand of choice.

Now right now some of you are thinking, does it matter how I wear my clothes? Truth be told, compared to other issues out government should be focused on, it really doesn't. But in lawmakers' minds, this is a pertinent issue that directly deals with the well-being of

the citizens of the state of Florida blah blah blah.

And to a certain extent they are correct. How would you feel if you and your 91-year-old great-grandmother were walking in the grocery store and she starts flipping out because the guy who works there stocking the shelves has his pants so low she can see things that she doesn't want to. Wait, why does he still have a job if he is sagging his pants at work to begin with? I digress...

The point is, be courteous to others and wear your pants right. Belts were invented for a reason. Invest. As far as I am concerned, children in grades kindergarten to fifth grade shouldn't even be sagging to begin with. You are four-years-old, what on this good green earth do you know about sagging? Absolutely nothing that's what. And the fact that parents are allow-

ing their elementary aged children to sag is beyond me in the first place. But like my mom always said, "You can't tell people how to raise their kids."

And now the NAACP is dead set against this bill. They feel that the ban is targeting just blacks alone. But for some reason I feel this is a little hypocritical. The NAACP doesn't want blacks to sag their pants; however, now that a bill has been set in motion to ban the practice there is a huge issue about it being "racist?" Okay...

But here's a little "news flash," people from all races in America, for the most part, sag. Unfortunately, black youth sag more than others... that can't be denied. And furthermore, do you honestly think that sagging your pants makes you look thuggish? How on earth are you going to look thuggish but you are attending a uni-

versity? Thuggery and academia do not, I repeat, do not go in the same sentence. Nor does sagging at a professional setting. So I hate to break it to you but you are, in Twitter speak, #epic-failing.

A lot of you who sag are disagreeing with this article and the bill itself. I'd be surprised if you were still reading this article, to be straightforward with you. But it is what it is. Just like the bill to ban sagging pants. I guess stores are going to be selling out of belts soon. Because like previously stated, many of you are going to be investing in them real soon.

Khristanda Cooper is opinions editor of The Famuan, the Florida A&M University student newspaper, which originally published this article.



If you have artwork, articles, poems or questions for "Don't Shoot the Messenger, e-mail them to arkansawyer@hotmail.com. All submissions are strictly confidential.

#StressFreeApril

April is Stress Awareness Month. Ezinearticles.com provides a list of ways to stay stress free while away at college. Here are a few you may find useful:

o Sleep - Make sure, even in a small dorm, you have a comfortable bed so you can get proper rest. While at college, you are going to be running from class to class, studying, and of course, making new friends. However, to keep stress levels to a minimum, you also need a minimum of six hours sleep at night, preferably eight.

o Exercise - This too is great for remaining stress free while away at college. You might consider working out at a nearby gym, or

just enjoy the outdoors by going for a walk or run. In addition to exercise being good for the body, it is also the ideal means for clearing the mind, thereby reducing undue stress.

o Volunteer - Many schools are located in communities that have the need for volunteers. Although you will be busy with classes and studying, you could certainly find one hour of time every week to volunteer your time or services. For instance, you might locate a nursing home in close proximity to the school, taking an hour to visit with the elderly.

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