

THE TEEN APPEAL

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Teen Appeal Kicks Off 15th Year with Camp

By Victoria Johnson, Sudeshna Barman, Brittney Adu, Sharleen Hamilton, Brasia Austin Cordova, White Station, Booker T. Washington, Central High School



Photo by
Kenneth
Cummings.
High school
students
from
attended the
week-
long Lionel
Linder
Journalism
Camp
at
The
University
of
Memphis.

High school students from all across Memphis City Schools gathered for a week this past summer to explore the world of journalism at the 15th Annual Lionel Linder Journalism Camp. The camp was held at The University of Memphis' Meeman journalism building.

"I like it because it's different from English class," said Central High junior Marica Bryson.

"I've been given the chance to take what I have now and a chance to express my thoughts."

The Teen Appeal began as the city-wide high school newspaper program in 1997. The camp is named after Linder, former editor of The Commercial Appeal and alum of The University of Memphis, who

was killed in a car accident in 1993.

The approximately 50 students who attended the camp were given the opportunity to learn from journalists, photographers and graphic designers from across the Memphis area, as well as getting to interview many of them.

Led by program coordinator and former Teen Appeal reporter, Marcus Matthews, campers learned the rules and mannerisms of interviewing, explored multimedia and social

President from page 1

media journalism, discussed what news means, and talked about opportunities outside of newspaper reporting for journalism majors.

The students took courses and learned from former Teen Appeal staff members who served as mentors.

Former Teen Appeal staffer and Whitehaven High School graduate Jacqueline Smith came back to the camp to help introduce the new staff to journalism.

“I’ve always had a passion for writing,” Smith, who majors in journalism at Middle Tennessee State University, said.

Guests included graphic artists Steve Simpson and Lloyd Ambrose, creators of the group 50percent16; Jackson Sun photographer and former Teen Appeal staffer Kenneth Cumming and Commercial Appeal metro columnist Wendi Thomas.

Thomas talked about her career as metro columnist at The Commercial Appeal. She likes being able to share her thoughts with her readers.

“I’ve always had opinions. I just wasn’t paid to share them,” Thomas said.

University of Memphis journalism professor Dr. Tom Hrach taught at the camp and assisted student all week. He also sat in to hear many of the guest speakers.

“What I really liked about Wendi Thomas, she talked about importance of reporting and not just giving opinions,” Hrach said.

Another guest, Chris Sheffield of The Memphis Business Journal, gave his take on finding the perfect career path: “What kinds of things do you like to read? What are your hobbies? Find a publication that focuses on your niche.”

Other guests who were interviewed by The Teen Appeal staff include Cordera Woodard, Yale University Graduate; Christopher Dean, speaker at the Booker T. Washington commencement ceremony and Dr. Darrell Ezell, an international political journalist.

Campers have responded enthusiastically to the camp. Selena Humphrey, a junior at Trezevant High School called it, “an exciting change to do something different this summer.”

Destiny Thomas, a senior at Raleigh Egypt High School, summed it up by saying, “Teen Appeal has taught me how to write better, in different ways and how to improve my writing.”

The Teen Appeal will be delivered to your school’s front door entrance on the first Tuesday of each month this school year except for January, because of winter break. Be sure to look for the paper at your school.

MEMPHIS HAPPENINGS

By Amber Williams

White Station High School

- Les Miserables, at the Orpheum Theatre Sept. 13-18
- Journey performs at the FedEx Forum Sept. 14
- Book Launch (Yankee Doodle Dixie) By Author, Lisa Patton at Booksellers @Laurelwood 6:00 p.m. Sept. 14
- Glengarry Glen Ross at Theatre Memphis Sept. 16- Oct 2
- Memphis Tigers vs. Austin Peay Governors at the Liberty Bowl Stadium Sept. 17
- Memphis Tigers vs. Southern Methodist Mustangs at the Liberty Bowl Stadium Sept. 24



What's hot and what's not in music this month

**Rap, R&B
&
Soul**

**Rock, Country
&
Alternative**

By Caylon Pettis

Whitehaven High School

Top Ten Rap/R&B Songs:

1. Miguel - Quickie
2. Beyonce - Best Thing I Never Had
3. Lil' Wayne - How To Love
4. Wale - That Way
5. Big Sean - My Last
6. Verse - Boo Thang
7. Jennifer Hudson - No One Gonna Love You
8. Kanye West - Otis
9. Big Sean / Kanye West / Roscoe Dash - Marvin Gaye & Chardonnay
10. Rihanna - Man Down

BTW Students, Teachers Reflect on Meeting The President

By Kelli Nichols, Cleon Osby, Toneshia McKinley

Cordova, Westwood High School

President Barack Obama leaned over to the graduating Booker T. Washington student Christopher Dean and said, “You got this.”

It was the chance of a lifetime for many on May 16, but especially for Dean, a Booker T. Washington senior.

His school participated in the national Race to the Top competition, which challenged schools around the nation to prove how well they are preparing students for college and careers.

When they came out victorious, Dean got the opportunity to introduce Obama at their graduation.

BTW became the first black high school in Memphis in 1913. Poverty, gang violence, teenage pregnancy and the destruction of many students’ first homes is a reality in Dean’s zip code: 38126.

BTW teacher D.J. Johnson filmed and edited the school’s entry video.

“The opportunity was not about us, the teachers, or anybody else,” Johnson said. “It was not even about getting the President to come to Memphis. It was simply about the students.”

Dean became the star of the school’s video and later Johnson nominated him to make his speech.

“The first person I thought of was Chris, because of his character,” Johnson said. “Chris was in my ninth grade class. (He had) a brilliant mind.”

Johnson said that in BTW, there was peer pressure to join gangs and act like gang members. Dean never submitted to the trends. Instead, he stood out.

“It takes a type of bravery to go against the grain,” Johnson said. “He is going

to be who he is regardless of what goes on.”

Dean rode with the Secret Service at four in the morning to meet the President.

“That morning, it was really cold,” Dean said. “The Secret Service are too serious...always mad.”

Dean said that his experience with President Obama was astonishing.

“I was blushing like a little girl when he first came in. He fixed my tie and now

everyone is trying to buy it. I’m not selling it. I’m going to frame it.”

Dean said that the most powerful moment to him is when he first met the President and tried to introduce himself to Obama and the President said, “I know who you are. You’re Christopher Dean.”

Dean explained how his life was after graduation.

“I’ve been living in a house for about a year now and my neighbors never talked to me or my family. After they saw me on T.V. with the President, they wanted to speak to me...I’ve been to D.C. and the White House.”

Winning the Race to the Top gave Booker T. Washington students an uncommon experience.

Dean later started the Chris Dean Foundation designed to help 20 teens prepare themselves for academic success. He said he plans to major in psychology at The University of Memphis.

No Cure for Wanderlust

By Morgan Moore, Sai Boyella

Hollis F. Price, White Station High School

One sickness not easily remedied by medicine or vaccinations is wanderlust.

Darrell Ezell, a young journalist for Enduring America, said that he had a “severe case of the travel bug”: a claim validated by his travels to over

Hailing from Alabama, Ezell pursued psychology at A&M University, but diverted to religious studies at Columbia University, after the events of 9/11. Foreign affairs now captured his focus. Ezell wanted to delve into politics, as he found his job at a radio station unfulfilling.

Ezell speaks English, Spanish and Arabic. His first book, *Beyond Cairo: Among U.S. Engagement with the Muslim World* was published a short time ago.

“Over the last year, I’ve had time to publish articles,” he said. “My main focus is international affairs.”

One of his main influences was Ed Bradley, the first black television correspondent to the White House, who said, “Too often in this country, we are judged by the color of our skin and not by the content of our



character.”

Ezell said, “Diversity is one of the main cornerstones of my mind.”

The doctor of American Studies doesn’t plan on ending his traveling anytime soon.

“I used to have a waterbed as a kid,” Ezell said. “It was my fantasy to travel around the world in a boat.”

Ezell made it clear that anyone could pursue success in global news. All one would need is a cell phone or a blog.

Speaking about breakthrough footage and updates about war-torn areas Ezell said,

“The people who were bringing us the stories were not the Anderson Coopers or Katie Courics... They were the young people.”

“We are at the age of a news blog. As a college student, I’m able to present my opinion.”

Empowering Men to Stay in School

By Sai Boyella, Deidra Richmond, Marica Bryson, Sudeshna Barma, Raquel Brewer

White Station, Oakhaven, East High School

Retention for minority men, specifically African Americans, is low even at historically black colleges and universities.

Empowered Men of Color is a student organization at The University of Memphis that aims to improve retention for male students of color.

“I personally feel that 10 out of 10 men that actively use the provided resources in EMOC are helped in the organization,” said former president Cortney Richardson.

Richardson spoke to The Teen Appeal staff about EMOC at the 2011 Lionel Linder Journalism Camp at The University of Memphis.

Members of EMOC must maintain a 2.0 GPA and pay a \$10 membership fee per semester. They also must wear a shirt and tie to meetings.

Though he was an honor student at East High School, Richardson said that he was not prepared for what he would encounter during his college years. He flunked psychology his freshman year.

Richardson said that many of the minority and

inner city students are not ready for college even if they are deemed honor students at their school.

“I was just joining to have something to do other than class, but what kept me in the organization (was its) goal to help young men excel, and I feel that is one of my purposes,” said member Silas Vassar, III, who joined in 2008.

EMOC does allow women to join, but it’s mainly for men, which is why Richardson said the group finally accepted Professional Assertive United Sisters of Excellence as its sister organization.

PAUSE doesn’t have exactly the same goals as EMOC, but its goal is to help women succeed academically and professionally by providing them with useful resources.

Besides increasing college retention, EMOC recruits 100 members for Junior EMOC.

EMOC sends out letters asking for nominations of young men accomplished in academics, arts and athletics and then honors them. The organization strives to teach young men leadership and study skills.

Richardson said that he wanted EMOC to grow enough to ensure that retention and graduation rates would no longer be a concern for The University of Memphis.

“I would love to work myself out of a job,” he said.

Future goals of EMOC include reaching out to graduate students and branching out to set up the organization at The University of Tennessee at Martin and LeMoyne-Owen College.



The Teen Appeal

Giving truth to Memphis youth

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Mutant Werewolves Fight Crime in 'VIRALS'

By Sudeshna Barman

White Station High School

Fourteen-year-old Tory Brennan is the niece of Temperance Brennan (whom many know better as the famous anthropologist from the hit TV show *Bones*). After the death of her mother, she goes to live with the father she never knew she had – Kit, a marine biologist who lives on a small island off the coast of South Carolina. Kit works at the Loggerhead Island Research Institute, located on another nearby island.

Tory's only friends are Ben, Hiram, and Shelton, three boys who also live on the island. Being the children of researchers, they call themselves “sci-philes” and are interested in anything science. When Tory finds the dog tag of a fallen soldier, the four teens break into the research facility to examine it. There they find and rescue a wolf-dog puppy that had been experimented on and locked in a cage.

Over the course of the story Tory, Hi, Ben, and Shelton start to develop extra senses. Their eyes turn gold. Suddenly they can hear, see, and smell better. They also begin to run faster and longer and their reflexes improve. However, these special abilities only appear during short periods of time in which they are under extreme stress. Tory soon realizes the “flaring” has been caused by dog they rescued, Cooper.

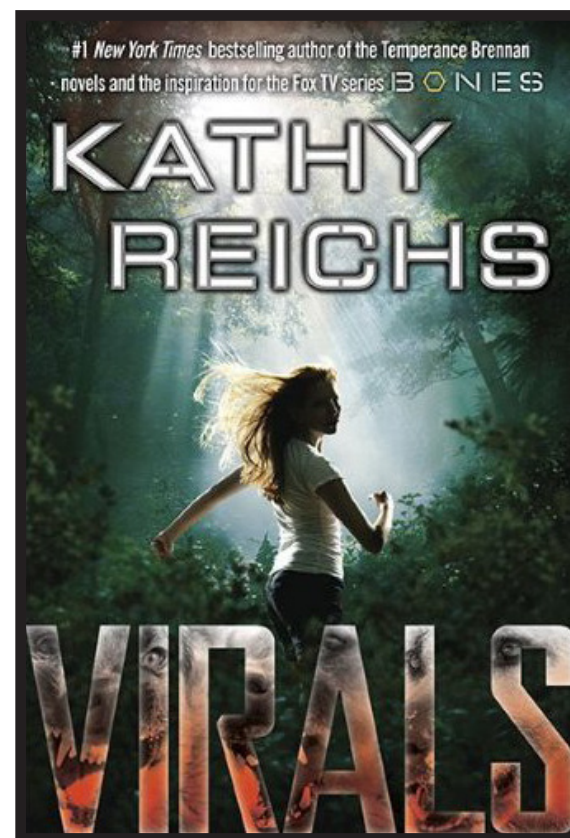
Cooper had been infected with a disease called canine parvovirus by a genetic scientist. The disease then mutated to allow human transmission. The disease changes the kids' DNA to make them part wolves, or “virals.”

The rest of the story revolved around solving a 40-year-old murder. It seemed, though, that Tory and her friends were just too smart. She identifies a skeleton's gender and age in five minutes. And how did four 14-year-olds manage to break into

a top secret lab? The adults in the story were typical. Her father, Kit, was a detached workaholic. His girlfriend was so fake and so obviously unrealistic that the reader usually just wants to hit her with a saucepan.

On the whole, *VIRALS* is an exciting mix of science fiction and mystery. In many ways it was like the *Maximum Ride* series by James Patterson. Reichs' first teen novel is refreshing; there is no overt romance, there are no vampires, and the heroine, Tory, is smart, resourceful, confident, and brave. The lack of lovelorn teenagers and the requisite love triangle makes this a novel I would recommend to male and female audiences alike.

The second book in the series, *SEIZURE*, was released August 2011.



Cordera Woodard: Not Your Typical Yale “Egghead”

By Nicolette Rodgers, Amber Williams, Kelli Nichols, Toneshia McKinley

Craigmont, White Station, Cordova, Westwood High School

Yale University brings up thoughts of gifted kids who live, breathe and eat education. Cordera Woodard breaks the stereotype of the typical ‘egg head.’

“I used to be the naughty body standing out in the hall (at school),” Woodard said.

Woodard graduated from Yale on May 25, 2011 and attributes all of his success to his mother, “When someone makes you do something, it stays with you.”

He spoke of his life in South Memphis and how at one point he considered joining a gang. Woodard, who is a Christian, credits ‘getting saved’ as the factor that stopped him from doing so.

He spoke to The Teen Appeal staff at the 15th Annual Lionel Linder Journalism Camp at The University of Memphis to show them that students from humble backgrounds can achieve great academic success with hard work and dedication.

Woodard attended Hamilton High School while it was experiencing a great deal of problems.

“There were all kinds of scandals and stuff in the news,” he said. “You could see in the student body, there was lack of leadership.”

While attending high school, Woodard was accepted into the Memphis Prep Program, a summer program that sends Memphis students to schools all over the country to study. He went to the Phillip’s Exeter Academy in New Hampshire.

Woodard was also a member of Business Professionals of America. He attended many speaking competitions at the local, regional and national levels.

“Cordera was an excellent student,” said Marcus Matthews, one of Woodard’s high school teachers and Teen Appeal coordinator. “He was the brightest child I taught and very attentive.”

He graduated from Hamilton in 2007 as senior class president.

After applying to 39 schools and getting into 38, Woodard set off for Yale University, majoring to political

science.

Woodard joined the singing group on campus, Shades of Yale. He stayed with the group for two and a half years before he deemed it ‘time consuming’ and found his

priorities shifting, making him focus even more on the academic aspect of his life.

“I never studied and that was a big obstacle I had overcome at Yale,” he said. “There were a lot of nerds at Yale. At Yale, you could hardly say the sky was blue without someone saying ‘I disagree.’”

Woodard said he didn’t like the way some students at Yale took something from a book: “I actually take what I learn from a book and apply it to my life. Yale gave me a unique education.”



Cordera Woodard, a graduate of both Hamilton High School and Yale University, spoke to The Teen Appeal Camp in July 2011.

“You Have to Get the Shot to Tell The Story”

By Rachel Busby, Sharleen Hamilton, Madison Renea Inman, Daniel Johnson

Hollis F. Price, Booker T. Washington, Middle College, Craigmont High School

Kenneth Cummings has had shot after shot in life, but what defines a good shot?

“I’m not being paid to work, I’m being paid to pursue one of my hobbies,” Cummings said.

Cummings, a former Teen Appeal photographer, spoke to The Teen Appeal staff at the 2011 Lionel Linder Journalism Camp about his career in photojournalism.

“I just started taking pictures,” he said. “I’ve always been a visual artist, beginning at a young age behind a VHS video camera at my church and in 2002 is when I made the major transition from video to still photography.”

He offered the following as the most important advice when photographing individuals: “Get their name and spell it right!”

Cummings graduated from Sheffield High School in 2004 and from Tennessee State University in 2008. At Sheffield, he worked on the yearbook staff his junior and senior years. And at TSU, he joined The Meter staff as photographer, later becoming photo editor.

Cummings majored in speech communications and theater with a concentration in mass communications.

After graduating from college, Cummings had a hard time finding a job.

“Why hasn’t anyone come and tried to get a hold of me and my work?” he said he wondered.

Eventually he found a job at The Jackson Sun in Jackson, Tenn.

Cummings, an award-winning photographer, has received multiple awards from the Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors for spot news photography, sports photography and body of work.

Cummings’ jobs can also be dangerous. His hands and feet have turned purple and he has been hit by a car while waiting for the perfect shot.

“You have to get the shot to tell the story,” he



Self-portrait of Kenneth Cummings, Teen Appeal alumni, Sheffield High and Tennessee State University graduate. Cummings is an award-winning photographer at The Jackson Sun in Jackson, Tenn.

explained.

Cummings has an extended portfolio that includes photos from local stories such as fires, murders and soldiers returning home from tours of duty in Iraq. These and other photos can be viewed at www.kennethcumplings.net.

“Still photography images last longer in the mind,” Cummings said. “It’s a moment in history that may never play back the same way again.”

From Craigmont to YouTube Sensations

By Terry Weatherall, Marica Bryson, Shantel Pettigrew, Corey Clay

Oakhaven, Trezevant, Central, East High School

For Steven Simpson and Lloyd Ambrose, inspiration can come from just about anything: A new movie, an old video game, or simply a box of Eggo waffles.

Using the YouTube screen name 50percent16, Simpson and Ambrose are the stars in their very own comedic videos.

Simpson and Ambrose have been actively making these videos using Adobe and Photoshop techniques and their own visual and sound effects.

The team said that their videos take three to four months to make and they work 12 hours a week on them, because they also work at other jobs.

“Most of it we learned ourselves or looked at tutorials online and tweaked them to make our own,” Simpson said.

The two met in the ninth grade. Ambrose, a New Orleans native, was brought

work for a big successful company.”

The ideas for videos may seem random and easy to make up, but in reality, the two say it is the hardest part of their videos.

“When I have writer’s block, my little brother has to come help me,” Simpson said.

The 19-year-olds showed the staff of The Teen Appeal some of their videos and received great feedback.

Raquel Brewer, member of Teen Appeal staff said, “They were creative and had a lot of imagination within their videos.”

“They are very talented with their graphics,” said Brasia Austin, of Central High School.

To watch the videos on YouTube, search for the term “50percent16.”



Steven Simpson (L) and Lloyd Ambrose (photo from Facebook.)

to Memphis during the Hurricane Katrina disaster. He was then transferred to Craigmont where he met Simpson.

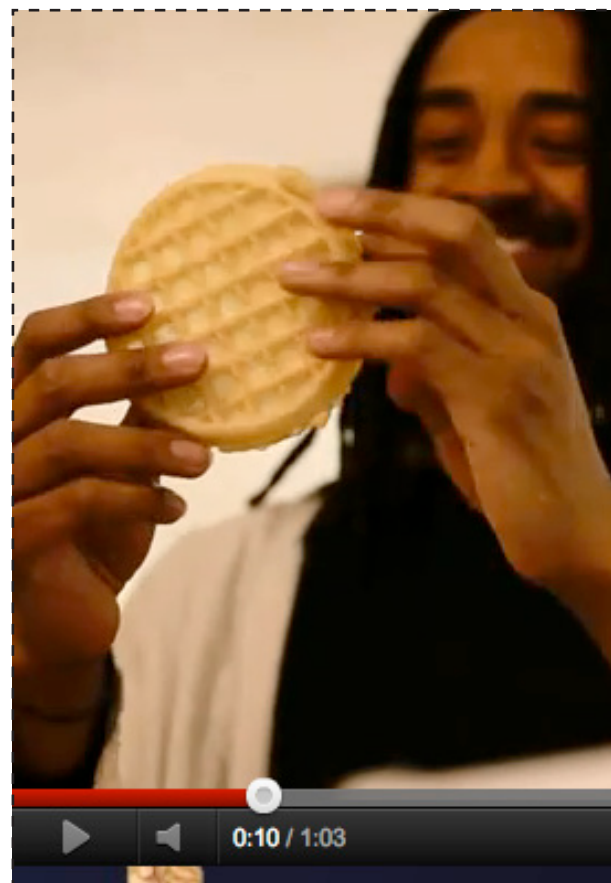
They created the name 50percent16 at the age of 16 when they discovered that they both contributed their talents 50/50 within their YouTube channel.

Today, the two are sophomores in college: Simpson attends The University of Memphis and Ambrose attends Vanderbilt University. Simpson majors in film production and Ambrose majors in mechanical engineering.

“It’s hard to make videos,” Simpson said. “It’s hard to make videos, because Ambrose attends a college in Nashville and I attend a Memphis college, so making videos are hard to produce.”

Their work mainly consists mainly of spoofs and music videos. Their most popular video, with over 32,000 views, is a parody with Simpson and Ambrose impersonating the rap artists Drake and Lil Wayne.

“Our goal is to become YouTube sensations,” Simpson said. “Or hopefully



Screenshot from Steve N Lloyd’s YouTube page.