

Gambian rapper studies at Truman

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff Reporter

Junior Enato Esangbedo was made an offer he couldn't refuse, which ultimately lead to three rap albums.

Esangbedo is a biology major from Kanifing South, Gambia, a country in West Africa. When he was chosen to become a part of Playschool the Gambia, an organization that recruits children to produce their own TV shows and radio spots, he was asked to write a song that started it all.

"When I was 12 years old ... our director ... asked me and a group of people to work on a song, and ... we just decided to put a little rap into it, and it went pretty well," Esangbedo said. "Then a couple of people ... asked us to form a rap group, and we just did little shows here and there."

The group Present Street Generation, which Esangbedo belongs to, completed its first album when he was 15. Playschool the Gambia paid for a studio to record "Da New Era Vol. 1," the band's name began to spread. The group also had two music videos and a follow-up album, "Da New Era Vol. 2."

Esangbedo's unusual nickname, Ace the Godfather, comes from a couple of places.

"When I was 13 and just starting out, I was into a lot of Mafia movies, so it started out as being just 'The Godfather,'" he said. "Our group ... used to have freestyle battles, and I would always win, so they always called me Ace and the name just stuck."

Esangbedo said he came to Truman be-

cause his older sister was a student here and recommended it. As the members of the group set off to pursue higher education, they put PSG on the back burner.

"One of the members is in Venezuela now and the other [is] in Morocco, so we kind of just split up because we all left for our education," Esangbedo said.

After coming to the states, Esangbedo recorded a solo album called "Sweet Pain," a sampling of which can be heard on his MySpace page. He has performed twice at Truman and did a guest appearance for the True Men mix tape. Other than that, Esangbedo said he hasn't recorded or written any songs lately, although he has begun producing for himself and others.

"I don't rap that much anymore just because Truman keeps you so busy, so I haven't really written a song in a while," Esangbedo said.

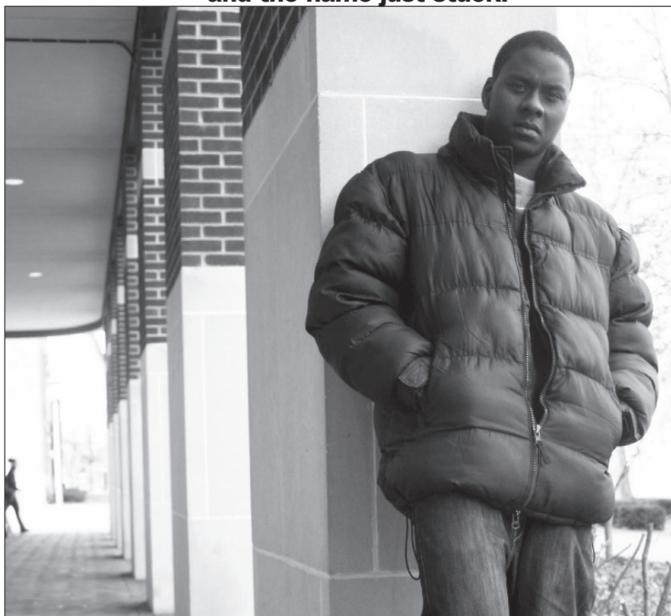
After coming to Kirksville from a big city in West Africa, Esangbedo said he didn't experience too much of a culture shock, which he attributes to the strong impact of globalization.

"Living in a big city like I did, people dress pretty similar, the music is not much different," Esangbedo said. "But then of course the food is different. The weather is different because it's by the tropics and it's freezing over here. There is more development here, so once in a while you get stunned by the huge buildings and all that, but it wasn't too hard to adjust."

Esangbedo said he might continue with rap and music production, but he really plans on pursuing a career in the health

All eyes on Enato Esangbedo

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Amy Gleaves/Index

Esangbedo started his music career in Playschool the Gambia an organization that produces children's TV and radio shows. Since then he has been featured in three albums.

field. His father is a doctor and his mother is a dentist, although Esangbedo said he was more influenced to study biology because he's always excelled at science. He said he hopes to gain some work experience in the United States, but ultimately plans on returning to

Gambia because there is a real need for health practitioners. In the immediate future Esangbedo has one focus.

"Right now I'm just trying to graduate, I guess, and just see where that takes me," Esangbedo said.

Shelter dog finds foster home

BY CASSANDRA MCCARTY
Assistant Features Editor



Courtesy of Adair County Humane Society

Seby is a golden retriever and border collie mix who does not have a permanent home. He has been sitting in a cage in the same room since October 2008 with about 40 other adult dogs.

Although he is homeless, a family of Humane Society volunteers and workers eventually helped him survive. Seby was going to be put down, but the Adair County Humane Society helped him travel to a St. Louis rescue group the weekend of Feb. 27 where someone will find a permanent place for him.

Senior Courtney Duchardt has acted as a caretaker for Seby during his stay at the shelter. She said she became attached to Seby when they took their first walk together.

"The first time I took Seby out I was kind of worried because he jumps around the cage," Duchardt said. "But Seby was so pretty. I wanted to take him out, and once he got the energy out of his system I sat down with him, and he will do that golden thing where they lean up against you and they are like, 'I need to be loved right now, please see to that.' He is just a doll."

Duchardt is a regular volunteer for the Humane Society, and although she dedicates an allotted time for Seby's walk, she said she will do anything from washing the dishes to cleaning out the cages to help out the dogs and the managers of the organization. Despite Duchardt's commitment to the well-being of the animals, she said she cannot participate in the process of euthanizing the unlucky.

"I worked at a vet's over the summer a couple of years ago and one time had to be around when one was put down and so I told the ladies there, 'I will clean up poop, I will do anything but I can't handle that,'" Duchardt said.

Missy Decker, the manager of the Humane Society, explained that Seby belonged to a family before he was placed into the shelter, but because the neighbors didn't like him wandering in their yard, the family decided to surrender him.

"Seby is having a really hard time here," Decker

said. "He'd get out for a little walk once, maybe twice a day. He started having problems with the other dogs in his kennel, and the shelter was full, and we started looking into other options. We call it 'they lose their soul' — you can see it in their eyes, and I saw it happening to Seby."

Although Seby was a member of the shelter for five months and didn't tolerate other animals well, Seby will not be euthanized because Decker sought out other options.

"To me, a shelter shouldn't be a long-term thing," Decker said. "It's not fair to them. We are not a home. As much as we want to spend the time with all of them, there are other things to be done. The cages need to be cleaned, they need their shots, and they need the people coming through."

Officer Bob Allen, a member of the Animal Control Department in Kirksville, comes to the shelter regularly. Although Allen has not had to deal with the problem of rescuing puppies, he said the amount of older adult strays in Kirksville is an issue.

"I took in a female Chihuahua last year, and she was inside a pickup truck, a small pickup with the windows up," Allen said. "She was in really bad shape, and the vet did what they could for her after I took her out to the shelter, and they made her good. She would only eat lunch meat, she wouldn't eat dog food. I mean she was in really bad shape, and when she died it really got to me there."

Allen said he encounters numerous situations with dogs, and although he takes some to the shelter, others he cannot help anymore, such as animals that have been hit on the road.

"If I do find someone's pet dead, I have little poems that I send them in the mail," Allen said. "It's just something to ease the pain a little bit. 'The Rainbow Bridge' is real pretty, and it's helped a lot of people."

Students donate their time off to service

BY KRISHA SHRESTHA
Staff Reporter

Florida might be the hot spot for Midterm Break, but the Baptist Student Union is tackling the lesser-known vacation spots. This year the BSU is taking students to Mobile, Ala., a city affected by hurricanes, for its annual Spring Break Service Trip.

Audra Glotfelty, graduate student and intern at the BSU, is in charge of the trip this year. She said organizers are trying to make it more than just a service trip. Travelers will have are having a free day on Friday during which they will be allowed to do whatever they want.

"We will give people options and see what they want to do," Glotfelty said. "One group might go to the beach, some of them might want to go shopping, some might want to go to the museum. We will basically have vans that will go to different places."

The service trip does come with a price — \$160. It's only \$80 for international students, but scholarships are available to general students, thanks to donations from the BSU and local churches.

The trip begins Friday, March 6 and activities truly begin Sunday with a church service in the morning at a host church.

"That afternoon will just be a relaxing day, and that evening we will [have] kind of an orientation," Glotfelty said. "During the week, during most of the day we will be volunteering, most of them will be most of the day from eight to four."

The volunteers will be divided into four groups. One will be working with Habitat for Humanity framing walls. Another team will work with the food bank. A third team will be replacing frames and doing maintenance with the Girl Scout camp and the final one will be working at the Salvation Army doing landscaping work.

Junior Kristin Kimrey will be attending the service trip for the second time. Last year she went to Charleston, S.C., with the BSU.

"It was so much fun, it actually led me to getting a job in South Carolina," Kimrey said. "I worked with a Girl Scout camp in Charleston and got to talk with the director of the camp. She was

like, 'Any of you girls want to come back?' and three of us went back [for summer jobs]."

Kimrey also is driving one of the vans taking students to Mobile.

"Even when I feel like I don't want to drive for 14 hours to stay for a week, it always turns out to be worth it," Kimrey said. "We work from early morning till about 4 p.m. and then stay as late as 3 a.m. talking with friends, playing volley and just getting to know them, which is always fun."

She said the trip takes her out of Kirksville to warm weather for a week where she will meet new people while doing some community service and eating good food.

"Vickie Austin — she is an amazing woman — she cooks us this home-cooked [meal], like Mom's food," Kimrey said. "You would expect that it will be sandwiches and small stuff. No, we have casserole, bacon and hash browns, toast and eggs for breakfast and taco salad, vegetables, Mexican chicken ... for dinner and Texas sheet cake for dessert. So she really invests in us and is like a mom to us."

Vickie Austin and her husband Gene Austin are in charge of the BSU. This is her seventh Midterm Break trip with the students, and she said she is not worried about cooking for many people because she's cooked for 98 students before.

"It's just making sure you plan ahead and get the students' help, and the students like to learn new and different things as well, and go to bed early so as to cook breakfast early in the morning," Austin said.

Austin said she has received good feedback about the past trip and, is excited to see what this year has in store for her.

"It's a good group building time, and it is a very rewarding experience to see the students work in the community, to feel good about their work and to feel like they make a difference," Austin said. "The students spend a lot of time with each other, in the evenings and while working during the day that they also build strong friendships there."

Austin said it is nice to see students giving up their free time and their holiday to do good for others. This is why they try to make this a fun trip as well and not just hard work, she said.

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