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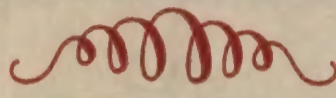
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The Official Newspaper of



Prairie View A&M University



THE PANTHER

NEWS PAPER



PVAMU Marching Storm Takes New York

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Stepping Out of the Shadow

Daric Cottingham
Managing Editor



This semester has been one of many tests and trials. While serving in the capacity of Managing Editor for The Panther Newspaper, I've dealt with the good, the bad, and the ugly. It's hard stepping out of the shadow of your predecessor and creating a new standard of your own; reminding our fellow panthers, we are still here and know our student journalistic duty. Rebuilding sometimes requires assistance to get back on stable feet; a showing of human decency I strongly believe is possible of all mankind. But what happens when this assistance is offered in the form of empty promises? Do you beg and plead for them to remember their offer of help as you scramble to salvage what you can to rebuild? Most would do this, but not

myself. As my Editor in Chief Johari Wiley would like to say, I'm an "attack dog". Simply meaning I am the secret weapon, the ace in the hole when it's time to vocalize and put action behind an issue.

So, what is the issue? Why is the front-page story blank? Well, you have to be present to cover a story, and to be present you must be considered for attendance. Remember that shadow I mentioned earlier, well it's casting far and wide over my fellow staff and I. It's like having to prove to your parents that you are nothing like your older sibling and you have your own great traits to offer. Gaining the favor and trust of administration has been a tough battle this semester; we dealt with expectations that were unrealistic without their full backing support.

I recall the times I would be asked if The Panther would be covering the Marching Storm while they played in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Again, in the words of Johari Wiley, my answer would always be, "My guess is good as yours." We honestly didn't have an answer, we knew this would be an important moment in the university's history and wanted the chance to be able to document it in The Panther Newspaper. As members of PVAMU's official newspaper, we have been set with the task of covering any and all major events associated with the university. However,

prior to the Macy's event, we'd begin to notice a certain level of neglect when it came to considering The Panther's priority. The first instance being the popular Cotton Bowl game in Dallas held between PVAMU and Grambling. Outside of the game, other important events took place, such as President Simmons' "State of the University Address," The Marching Storm being featured on WFAA, an ABC affiliate, and community service events held by the football and cheerleading teams; all of which we would have missed had we not been sent to Dallas. I, along with Johari and our advisor Candace Johnson, had to prod and convince our administrators that our presence in Dallas that weekend was necessary to gather a complete story. Similar instances continued throughout the semester, notably during the weekend of the PVAMU vs. Southern University football game, where we had to go out of our way for basic accommodations to be made. To make a long story short, when the topic of going to New York to cover the Thanksgiving events came up, we were unsure if we'd make an appearance based on precedents our administration had set. Ultimately administration felt, — though we endured late publication nights till 5am, producing the entire paper on my personal MacBook and camera, making miracles happen from thin air — we had not proven ourselves thus far. And

just like that, the answer to coverage of the infamous New York trip became a permanently stamped "No".

But, luckily there are agents of change that believe the interests of the student is what matters most. Among them being our newly named President, Ruth J. Simmons, Special Advisor to the President, Yolanda Beville, and the best advisor The Panther Newspaper could ever have, Candace Johnson. They listened when our frustration of living in the shadow was seeming like a permanent residency.

While serving in this capacity as Managing Editor, I've dealt with the day to day struggles of having to bridge the gap between what administrators and students want to read (even what former panthers felt the newspaper should be like still). I've learned a long time ago, however, you can't please everyone. But, I do believe you can do right by everyone, and while serving in this position I promise to do what is ethically right for my fellow Panthers. No matter if that's standing my ground against administration for what's right, providing an ethical standard of The Panther by letting students concerns and voices be heard — even if it is an anonymous submission in 20 Questions. This has been a journey that has been one of stumbles and falls — at times a free fall, but cats always land on their feet and The Panther will stand tall.

6 women claim Weinstein cover up was racketeering

Larry Neumeister
AP News Contributor

NEW YORK (AP) — Six women filed a lawsuit against Harvey Weinstein on Wednesday, claiming that the movie mogul's actions to cover up assaults amounted to civil racketeering.

The lawsuit was filed at a federal court in New York seeking to represent a class of "dozens, if not hundreds" of women who say they were assaulted by Weinstein.

The lawsuit claims that a coalition of companies and people became part of the growing "Weinstein Sexual Enterprise" and that they worked with Weinstein to conceal his widespread sexual harassment and assaults.

"The Weinstein Sexual Enterprise had many participants, grew over time as the obfuscation of Weinstein's conduct became more difficult to conceal," the suit said.

A lawyer for Weinstein declined comment.

According to the lawsuit, actresses and other women in the film industry were lured to industry events, hotel rooms, Weinstein's home, office meetings or auditions under the pretense that they were to discuss a project.

Plaintiffs included the scriptwriter and actress Louise Geiss and the actresses Katherine Kendall, Zoe Brock, Sarah Ann Thomas, Melissa Sagemiller and Nanette Klatt.

The Associated Press generally doesn't name alleged victims of sexual assault without their permission. All of the women have told their stories publicly.

At least 75 women have come forward in the media to detail accounts of assault, harassment and inappropriate conduct by Weinstein. Weinstein's representatives have denied all accusations of non-consensual sex, but no charges have been filed.

Weinstein, 65, is being investigated by police in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, New York and London.

Weinstein was ousted from the movie company he founded following a barrage of sexual harassment allegations that began with a bombshell New York Times article in early October. Since then, numerous prominent men in entertainment, business and politics and the media have been hit with allegations of improper behavior with women.

The Zone is in the Zone

Olivia Mackey
News Editor



PRAIRIE VIEW, TX — After months of renovation and impatient students firing complaints at every which way, Farrell Hall cafeteria, more popularly known as "The Zone" is now open.

From the moment you walk into The Zone, it is evident that there has been a shift in the atmosphere. The lighting is more inviting, the setup is more organized, and the environment is more appealing.

In the original planning of The Zone, it was said to have a late-night drive-thru, all day breakfast, and to be opened 24 hours; however, only one of those plans, the all day breakfast, have come to pass, but this does not take away from its exceptional service and food.

The components of The Zone are unique in comparison to the MSC. In the MSC there are a few basic options for food such as an international station, a grill, a salad station, and a sandwich station. The Zone is somewhat similar, but what truly distinguishes the two is the quality of the food. Although both The Zone and the MSC food is from the tier at Sodexo, it is obvious that one is more pleasing to students than the other.

Across the campus, students have been giving exceptional reviews, one being freshman nursing major, Chidinma Brown. "When I first came to PV, I tried the Sodexo food in the MSC, and within a week I was over it. It was never really fresh... and it didn't even taste good" said Brown. She continued "The Zone changed all that. Now, I know that there is always fresh, and delicious, food waiting for me at PVAMU."

From the rotisserie chicken that spins each day with a different flavor, such as Jamaican jerk and garlic cinnamon chicken, and the plates that scream sophistication, to the waffle station located alongside the all day breakfast selections, the food choices exemplify culinary excellence.

Whether they're a freshman or a senior, many Panthers across PVAMU have taken a strong liking to The Zone. While The Zone may be at the back of the campus, it certainly is not at the back of the list of great things here at PVAMU. So start walking and come check out this new piece of culinary excellence!

AU to help evacuate 15,000 migrants from Libya this year

Carley Petesch and Hilary Uguru
AP News Contributors

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — The African Union and member states will repatriate more than 15,000 migrants stranded in Libya by the end of the year amid outrage over recent footage that showed migrants being auctioned off as slaves, the AU's deputy chairman said Tuesday.

Between 400,000 and 700,000 African migrants are in dozens of camps across Libya, often under inhumane conditions, AU Commission

chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat told a summit of European and African leaders last week. The International Organization for Migration says more than 423,000 migrants have been identified in the chaotic North African country, most of them from impoverished countries across sub-Saharan Africa.

Libya's modern-day slavery came to international attention after the CNN footage showed migrants being auctioned off for as little as \$400. Thousands of migrants make their way to Libya in hopes of eventually reaching Europe via the Mediterranean, often facing desertion and inhumane treatment by smugglers.

One Nigerian recently repatriated told The Associated Press about his ordeal.

"I paid 500,000 naira (\$1,600) to one Nigerian called Mr. Fix It in 2016 to facilitate my illegal journey to Europe through Libya across the Mediterranean Sea. But on getting to Libya, he abandoned all of us to our fate," the man said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of fears for his security.

He said he and others were detained by Libyan militia members and kept in a makeshift prison where they were tortured and starved. More than 10 Nigerians, including girls, were taken away and sold as slaves. He was lucky to be rescued by security forces,

he said. He was repatriated in July.

The man is among more than 5,000 Nigerians repatriated from Libya in the past two years, according to Abike Dabiri-Erewa, senior special assistant to Nigeria's president on diaspora and foreign affairs. Another 250 Nigerians were on their way back from Libya on Tuesday, the government said.

The voluntary evacuations from Libya of more than 15,000 migrants will take place in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, African Union deputy chairman Kwesi Quartey said Tuesday on Twitter. The continental body will help to issue emergency travel documentation and facilitate travel, he said. He did not specify which countries' migrants would be sent home.

The African and European leaders last week drew up an emergency evacuation plan for migrants, agreeing to airlift at least 3,800 stranded in one of more than 40 detention centers in Libya. Morocco, France, and Germany will provide the air carriers, according to Gambian senior foreign affairs official Ebrima Jobe.

Separately, nearly 200 Gambians were repatriated on Nov. 30, while between 4,000 and 5,000 are still in Libyan camps, Jobe said. He criticized the "African brothers" who act as middlemen for the smugglers.

"Our criminal justice system should without delay initiate the prosecution of all those Africans involved," he said.

Other African countries are now joining in on repatriations, including Ivory Coast and Cameroon.

Europe has struggled to stem the flow of tens of thousands of Africans making the dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean. But many Africans still make the journey, risking death and abuse, saying high unemployment and climate change leave them little choice.

Amnesty International has criticized Europe, saying its primary aim is to close the Mediterranean route and leave hundreds of thousands of migrants trapped in Libya and facing horrific abuses.

"Plans which overwhelmingly prioritize the 'voluntary' return of people now stuck in Libya to their country of origin without an effective system for assessing and meeting asylum needs or offering more resettlement places will end up as a mechanism for mass deportation," said John Dalhuisen, Amnesty International's Director for Europe.

Uguru reported from Warri, Nigeria. Associated Press writer Abdoulaye John in Banjul, Gambia contributed.

Seniors Graduation Forum - What You Missed

Johari Wiley
Editor in Chief

This past Monday, Prairie View A&M University's Student Government Association held its Seniors Open Graduation Forum. In light of recent controversy regarding the university's decision to hold one graduation ceremony, rather than divide it by respective colleges, the forum served as a place for students to ask questions and express concerns.

Hosted by SGA Senior Class President Ariel Augustus and Senator of Career Services Jailin Singleton, audience questions were fielded by panel members Candace Johnson, Carol Campbell, Laurretta Byars, Francis Torres, and Joshua Muhammad. The event's agenda included the addressing of prominent questions made by students that would help to facilitate discussion between the panel and the audience

How was the decision to have one commencement ceremony made?

Campbell: We decided to have one commencement [because] we had students who would come up to us at meetings and say 'hey, you're having two commencements, I'm not able to go to the 9 o'clock [ceremony], because I'm at the 1 o'clock... So we listened to what the students were saying; that they would like to go back to having one commencement.

What data is backing that up?

Byars: Well, the issue of graduation has been discussed, at least, for the past four years. Students have

come to the executive council and raised questions about either the location, the fact that they wanted a speaker other than [former PVAMU President] Dr. Wright, the fact that if they were in the 9 o'clock and their friend was in the 1 o'clock; the problems that it caused. So, it has been an ongoing discussion...

Will there be live streaming of the commencement?

Johnson: We stream every commencement. You can access the [link] from the same home page that you look at to find the commencement guide. In that same area, there's always a button that says 'stream commencement'. We also stream via our Facebook live page, we stream to the Northwest Houston Center as well as the College of Nursing. All of the alternate sites will have a live feed, so that when you're crossing the stage, and you have friends that may be in the alternate viewing site, they will be able to [see you] the movement you cross the stage.

What are those sites?

Johnson: They are Hobart Taylor, the Student Rec Center, the ballroom in the MSC, and the auditorium in the MSC.

Torres: Right now I have 1,476 parking spaces within easy walking distance of all the different venues. I will have each of my areas zoned out by zone captains and I'll have the ROTC in each parking lot who's going to be guiding traffic in. This way we won't have people trying to park everywhere

The Ivy League Mr. Debonair Scholarship Pageant crowns new winner

Jessica Hayden
Panther Contributor



Thursday, November 30th, the AKAs hosted their Ivy League Mr. Debonair Scholarship Pageant. This pageant is a scholarship event that allows male contestants to express to the audience why they should be the next Mr. Debonair and how they plan to excel in life.

On paper, this event was a scholarship opportunity that was geared toward helping two Prairie View students financially. In order to win a scholarship, students had to write an essay explaining why they deserved the scholarship and must have also had at least a 2.7 grade point average.

The five judges presiding over the event were local Prairie View residents who all work in the community. The judges panel was as follows: Prairie View City Council member Jonathan Randle, Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Marian Jackson, Dean Charles Lewter IV, Roger Jones Thomas III and AKA alumna Shatoya Mcmillian.

The pageant contestants worked tirelessly to make their performances stand out to the judges. The first category was the "90s Campus Wear," which featured the contestants in retro looks from their heads to their toes. Additionally, the style of some contestant's vintage outfits and shoes showed how unique African American culture is.

Though, having a sense of style is nice, how you articulate your stance

on pressing circumstances is more important. As part of the pageant, the contestants had to explain how they will make an impact on worldly issues.

Sophomore Joshua Mason used a monologue by Colin Kaepernick as his performance to help express personal beliefs. After dropping some knowledge on the audience, he received a standing ovation.

Junior Anthony Qualls took a different route with his comedy skit. His performance turned out to be the funniest. Why? His choreographed dance number and his outfit — which consisted of a white T-shirt, shorts pulled up to his stomach, and a red, white and blue headband — made him stand out and kept drawing laughter from the audience.

Afterward, the men participated in a formal wear event. They all wore sharp suits to showcase their personality and style through their outfits.

The last segment of the pageant required contestants to answer a randomly selected question.

The Mr. Debonair position is a platform for the winner to be a man of pride and grace, while helping young men find their path to greatness. Mr. Debonair 2016-2017, Scherald Lindsay, said "It is time to pass the crown down to the next successor."

The 2017-2018 Mr. Debonair was awarded to Mason, who made his impactful message clear to the judges. Commenting on the outcome, Lindsay said "Mason is a hard-working student in his studies, and has seen this hard work with his own eyes. Mason is also a student who is dedicated to anything that he does for his education and his self."

The two runner ups for Mr. Debonair were sophomores Antonio Terrell and Demarcus Terry.

The Chidinma Christine Amagwula Scholarship was awarded to junior Antonio Hill and sophomore Jewel Jackson. The scholarship was awarded to any student that could explain their financial need for funding their education.

Steelers lose Shazier on their way to another Cincy win

Frank Victores
AP Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Linebacker Ryan Shazier stayed overnight in a hospital with a back injury while the rest of the Steelers headed home with yet another improbable comeback in hand, one that was so much like all the rest at Paul Brown Stadium.

Nasty. Ugly. Way over the edge. And ultimately, a Steelers win.

Antonio Brown caught a game-tying 6-yard touchdown pass while taking a hit to the head — one of many that crossed the line — and Chris Boswell kicked a 38-yard field goal on the final play Monday night for a 23-20 victory over the stunned-again Bengals.

The Steelers (10-2) extended their best start since 2004 and remained tied with New England for best record in the AFC. They'll play in Pittsburgh in two weeks, a game that could decide home-field advantage for the playoffs.

For now, their biggest concern is Shazier, who is the leading tackler in one of the NFL's top defenses. He hurt his back while making a tackle in the first quarter and was taken off the field on a cart. He got tests at a local hospital that indicated no surgery was needed "at this time," the team said in a statement.

Coach Mike Tomlin visited him after the game. The Steelers were hopeful that Shazier would return to Pittsburgh on Tuesday.

"Right now, we're just happy that he's getting the necessary medical attention that he deserves," Tomlin said.

It was the most frightening injury in a game full of vicious and illegal hits. Thousands of dollars will be handed out in fines by the league later in the week.

The Bengals (5-7) blew a 17-point lead in their latest meltdown against their Ohio River rival, one that essentially ended their playoff hopes. It was

typical of their self-destruction whenever they play the Steelers. Cincinnati managed only 13 yards in the fourth quarter while the Steelers completed their comeback. The Bengals had a team-record 173 yards in penalties.

In some ways, it was reminiscent of the Bengals' implosion during the 2015 playoff game that helped the Steelers rally for an 18-16 win on Boswell's field goal in the closing seconds.

"It has the feel of when we lost the playoff game," said safety George Iloka, who hit Brown in the head on his tying touchdown catch. "It's frustrating to not get the end result we want, year after year."

Some takeaways from the Steelers' latest improbable yet familiar win at Paul Brown Stadium:

SHAZIER'S OUTLOOK: The Steelers will have a challenging time replacing Shazier. Pittsburgh has given up a lot of big plays lately, but overcome it by getting sacks and turnovers, with Shazier leading the charge.

"When we need a big play, he's one of the guys we look to," linebacker Vince Williams said. "It's going to be tough."

STEELERS BIG NUMBERS: After being bottled up in the first half, the Steelers' playmakers has their way. Brown played on an injured toe that forced him to sit out practice last week and had eight catches for 101 yards. Le'Veon Bell ran for 76 yards and caught five passes for 106 yards, the first time that he and Brown had more than 100 yards receiving in the same game. Ben Roethlisberger was 24 of 40 for 290 yards, making him the eighth in NFL history to throw for 50,000 yards career. He joins Peyton Manning, Brett Favre, Drew Brees, Tom Brady, Dan Marino, John Elway and Eli Manning.

OWN THE BENGALS: The

Steelers have won six straight and nine of 10 against Cincinnati, including that playoff game. So many of them have followed the same script — Cincinnati plays well at the outset, the Steelers find a way to pull it out at the end — that nothing is really surprising anymore.

"It's sort of the best reality TV show out there — better than the Kardashians," Steelers defensive end Cameron Heyward said.

BURFICT CARTED OFF, TOO: Bengals linebacker Vontaze Burfict has been in the middle of much of the ugliness in the rivalry. His hit to Brown's head set up the Steelers' winning field goal in the 2015 playoff and drew a three-game suspension. He's kept up the feud on Twitter with Bell, who grabbed his facemask and pushed him down in the first half Monday, drawing a penalty.

In the second half, receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster leveled Burfict with a high hit and then stood over him, drawing a penalty. Burfict was taken off on a cart and was in concussion protocol.

"I didn't mean to stand over him," Smith-Schuster said. "I shouldn't have done that. I hope he's OK and I hope he gets better."

BENGALS' GRIM FUTURE: A large banner in the upper deck read: "Opportunity Knocks Again." And again, the Bengals blew it. They needed to win to have any realistic chance at the playoffs. Now, they've started the conversation in Cincinnati about whether coach Marvin Lewis will be back for a 16th season and whether other major changes are needed. They still haven't won a playoff game since 1990, the sixth-longest streak of futility in NFL history.

Livingston-Kirkland incident a teachable NBA moment

Joe Skipper
AP Writer

(AP)—Referees have a thankless job.

Someone inevitably complains about almost every call they make. Fans scream at them. Players scream at them. Coaches scream at them. They get the overwhelming majority of calls right. The ones they get wrong become big news.

That being said, they're not without flaws.

So that's what made what the NBA did Monday so significant. The league suspended Golden State guard Shaun Livingston for one game because he got involved in an on-court altercation with referee Courtney Kirkland, a justifiable sanction because players cannot be permitted to angrily make contact with referees, ever.

But the NBA also suspended Kirkland for a week over his role in what happened in the game against Miami.

"We regret the recent incident between Courtney Kirkland and Shaun Livingston," the National Basketball Referees Association said. "The NBRA has reached out to the National Basketball Players Association to explore ways to improve on-court communications and civility."

It's time to have those talks.

The player-referee relationship, while never buddy-buddy, seems very strained right now. Kevin Durant has been ejected from three games already this season, after getting kicked out of one in his first

700 NBA games. Goran Dragic was so angry over a non-call last week that he kicked a basket stanchion. LeBron James recently got the first ejection of his 15-year NBA career.

"At this point, it's like they're trying to turn me into a jump-shooter," James said after his ejection last month, repeating a stance he's offered plenty of times before that he doesn't always get the same sort of calls that others get when they drive to the rim. "I can't be a jump-shooter. I'm not a jump-shooter."

Referees are taught to defuse situations and not add fuel to the proverbial fire. That's where Kirkland failed. Livingston got in his face to argue that he had been fouled seconds earlier, and replays suggested he had a case. Kirkland then took two steps toward Livingston, hardly in a menacing way, but in a manner that didn't help the situation.

"Both the official and the player were part of it," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

Kerr took the high road, though it was clear that whatever happened shouldn't have happened. Livingston loses a game check and now might find himself wondering if he'll be watched more critically by referees going forward. Kirkland loses a week of work, and when he's eligible to return starting Monday, he's probably going to face even more scrutiny.

It's a teachable moment for the NBA. The league would be foolish to not take advantage.

PVAMU Football Recap

Owen L. Roberts III
Panther Contributor

An eventful season led up for the Panthers football team as they entered the 2017 Season. A promising new look proposed many questions on how they could improve on a successful 2016 season.

A hopeful record of 6-5 showed changes in the year. The Panthers managed to take away the third place spot in their division. Many accounted wins were highlights of the Panthers shaky season. A win against some top-tier teams gave them a legitimate chance to win SWAC.

On the other hand, contributions from our very own "Marching Storm" gave some light into the player's hearts.

The wins -- and even the losses were only a few of the mistakes made by the Panthers, but with more work and productivity success is achievable. Students attendance is another factor that shows as moral support for the players who are positioning themselves into victory. A team effort indeed, with the alumni showing up to

cheer, or GMC standing to uplift the crowd, many tools allowed the football team to thrive.

The rising sun on a hot Saturday afternoon just before kickoff, a sound rings from the grounds of the stadium. A voice is heard across campus all the way to the nearby apartments, discussing play-by-play results of performances made by the PVAMU Panthers. A roaring crowd fills the stadium rising to their feet every time a person would score. An excitement automatically arises on a person's face. The seats begin to block away from a blinding sun so people could enjoy the games. The opposing team's sat in disarray as their teams would sometimes get destroyed by the roaring Panthers.

Parking lots all over the yard would quickly cover with cars. The growth and feelings possessed within the Panther community are always critical ways for them to win. An addictive emotion occasionally floats away onto the turf of the stadium an

unknown perception changes the lonely hearts of players. People showed up every-time in help to uplift the team. Nevermind an unwanted scoreboard as long as the crowd could be ready to engage a group.

The season might not have gone as planned for the football players, but a sign to look forward to into the next season. As they longed for a number one spot in SWAC a hunger to do better arose. A continuing growth stage is lurking in the midst of the shadows. The longing to channel a powerful moment in a Panther shows measures for players and viewers alike.

People support their teams even in trials and tribulations, and the will to go every Saturday is a start to believe. The Panther Football team entails brotherhood, a changing sign to always strive and be better than the next day. When the odds were stacked against them, doubt never invaded their minds. The feeling to be better than 6-5 and third in SWAC only shows a drive to want more.

Grambling State Wins 2017 SWAC Championship

Andre Davis
Sports Editor

HOUSTON — Grambling State senior quarterback Devante Kincade completed 14-of-24 passes for 223 yards with two touchdowns and rushed for 75 yards with two more scores on the ground as the Tigers rode a huge second quarter to power past Alcorn State 40-32 Saturday to win back-to-back SWAC Football Championships at NRG Stadium.

For Grambling State, it marks their eighth football championship in the SWAC title game era that started in 1999.

The East Division winning Braves (7-5, 5-2 SWAC) and West Divi-

sion winning Tigers (11-1, 7-0 SWAC) had split the prior two championship meetings with Grambling rallying back to take last year's championship 27-20 and Alcorn proclaiming a 49-21 victory in the 2015 title game.

For their third consecutive meeting, final judgement saw the teams play out relatively even in a tight first quarter with the score tied at 10-10.

Kincade, the SWAC Offensive Player of the Year, gave the Tigers the first lead on a 14-yard touchdown run with 12:06 remaining in the first

quarter, but the Braves had an answer when conference leading rusher DeLance Turner rumbled in from two yards out to help knot the score at 7-7 with 7:50 left.

After Grambling's Marc Orozco and Alcorn's Corey McCullough traded field goals, the Tigers broke open with a 28-point second quarter highlighted by a five-yard touchdown run by Martez Carter, two passing scores from Kincade-one to Jordan Jones and another to Quintin Guice-and another on a 27-yard rushing score to take a comfortable 38-10 lead into halftime.

Defense stiffened in the third quarter with neither team able to score.

Grambling halted Turner in the end zone for a safety to increase the lead to 40-10 early in the fourth and then Alcorn State began a furious rally as Norlando Veals scored on a 34-yard touchdown toss from Lenorris Footman with 12:53 left. Footman added another score when he took it himself to score from five yards out. McCullough's PAT made a 40-24 score with 6:11 remaining in the game.

However, the Braves were not finished as Footman found Marquis Warford on a deep 65-yard pass to set up a six-yard touchdown run by Turner. Foot-

man followed up by finding Veals toward the corner of the end zone for a successful two-point conversion to cut the lead to 40-32, which concluded the final score of the 2017 SWAC Championship game.

Kincade was named the SWAC Championship Offensive Most Valuable Player while DeAndre Hogue was dubbed the game's Defensive Most Valuable Player after making a team-high seven tackles to go along with a sack and a tackle for a loss.

Guided by head coach Broderick Fobbs, the Tigers have now won 10 straight games and last lost to a conference opponent in the 2015 SWAC Championship against Alcorn State.

"It felt great to be back here and get another championship under our belt," said Head Coach Broderick Fobbs. "I tip my hat to Alcorn, they are a great football program. This is our third time meeting them here, so they're no stranger to the SWAC Championship. Our boys did a great job, I'm proud of them but we still have one more to go."

Grambling State advances to represent the SWAC in the Celebration Bowl and will play the undefeated North Carolina A&T on Saturday, Dec. 16 in Atlanta at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium, home of the Atlanta Falcons.



Panther Holiday Cheer



The Thrifty Gifter

Faith Johnson
Lifestyle Editor

This holiday season, amongst all others, we are all scrambling to get the perfect gift for our loved ones, but you don't have to break the bank to do so. It's all about smart choices and even smarter spending. As a college student, you may often find yourself being rich one day and broke the next, all within the single swipe of a card. Yet, your family doesn't see that. Your family sees a mature young adult who's finally old enough to show some appreciation for all the blessings received in your past youth.

That's right, the tables have turned and you have now been inducted into the gifter's circle.

In the past, you may have looked up to the more praised family members for their wonderful choice in gifts every year. Now, the torch has been passed and you are actually expected to give more than you receive. Your question now becomes "how?"

The key to being a good gifter is to be an even smarter shopper. Make for the happiest of holidays with good shopping habits. Wreckless shopping and spending choices can result in you buying items that aren't the best gift selections. In the end, it could result in a not so happy holidays when the rest of the family sees what you got for them.

This season, you want to make sure you have a set purpose and budget when getting what you want and what you think others need. You should always have a plan of how much you want to spend. Make marks and meet them, because when you save more than what you thought you would, you will feel a sense of accomplishment.

Start early by looking out for deals. Some sales actually start earlier and end later than the ones most advertised. For future reference, brands like JC Penney, Ross and many other

stores have sales up to a day before Black Friday and a week after. Those are purchases truly worth your time and your money.

Also, compare prices on the go by using apps. Some apps can help you compare prices to see whether or not the one you're checking out is truly a deal. Other apps can also help you by allowing you to extreme coupon for sales that might just beat whatever deal you think you're getting. Those coupon deals can become an everyday scan for you!

Outside of couponing, there are other ways to make your money stretch during the holidays. Consultant firm Afortus Financial, has a tip on how you can make this happen. A representative from Afortus quotes "...studies show shoppers who pay with a credit card are likely to spend more money than those using cash". However, a simple solution could be keeping a constant and close eye on your banking app to help monitor your swipe spending.

Another key is to start with Cyber Monday shopping after Thanksgiving. It is a sure enough way to knock out most of your Christmas list and to save yourself the terror of the rude people and Black Friday chaos that you would find in-store. Cyber Monday shopping is practically water on ice, fast, easy and most importantly, no outrageous lines. Just click and go!

Most importantly, remember the essence of the holidays in its entirety. When trying to make a dollar out of a dime, just make sure it all makes sense. The best gifts are the kind that keep on giving; ones from the heart. With great thought and consideration, you as a thrifty gifter are sure to give masterpieces and make moments that are priceless!

25 SONGS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

BY DARC COTTINGHAM

Christmas Time to Me	Snow in California	Christmas With My Girl
Eye for You	Winter Wonderland	Santa Baby
8 Days of Christmas	All I Want For Christmas is You	Christmas in Harlem (feat. Prince O'G)
Christmas in Hollis	True Love	
Do You Hear What I Hear?	Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays	
This Christmas (Main Version)	Last Christmas	
Mistletoe	Santa Claus is Coming to Town	
Someday at Christmas	Single Girl	
It'll Be Home	Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas	
Winter Things	When Christmas Comes to Town	
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas	Baby It's Cold Outside (feat. Gawn Da...)	

Miguel

- War & Leisure

Johari Wiley
Editor in Chief



Every so often, it's good to take a step back, pause for a second, and put the spaghetti junction that is our world into perspective. On *War & Leisure*, Miguel does just that. His craft has evolved, sonically and lyrically, since releasing 2015's *Wildheart*; an exhibition of self-love, sexual empowerment, and the wonders that fall between the two. However, *War & Leisure* finds Miguel making an honest attempt toward processing life's most pressing issues.

In a quick reading of the album's first track, it's clear that *War* would be sticking to a conceptual pattern throughout the project's course. "I got a mind full of TNT/ I need a lunatic just like me... I got a mind like Colombine/ Yeah, I'm a vigilante, I'm volatile" he sings on the album's opener "Criminal ft. Rick Ross". Here Miguel prepares fans for an experience deeper than what they've gotten out of his past works. Through his track selection, Miguel implies that he is caught in the figurative balance of war ("Wolf ft. QUIN", "City of Angels") and leisure ("Pineapple Skies", "Caramelo Duro ft. Kali Uchis"). This balance is on full display on the project's fourth track, "Banana Clip". Here, he fishes war-"Mig on my lap/ we hear missiles in the sky/ No matter where I go on the map/ you got my protection." And leisure-"You and me, we climb higher/ baby crescent-

do/ Gotta love, it won't stop/ It's that extendo."

In a November interview in Baltimore with Persia Nicole on 92Q, Miguel expressed a need for a project that would capture the polarity of the human experience. "We're in the middle of all of this, we're all being pulled in all these directions, you know? And so, I wanted to create a body of work that you could relate to what also makes you feel good, but isn't ignoring where we are."

On "Now", Miguel acknowledges a number of present issues within the U.S., both social and political. In an addressing of President Donald Trump, he asks "Is that the look of freedom? No. / Is that the sound of freedom? No. / 'Cause it's plain to see a man's integrity/ By the way he treats those he does not need."

Savvy use of metaphors, analogies, and even innuendo has allowed Miguel's songwriting a reach greater than that of his many pop & contemporary peers. His ability to mesh world war anxieties and romance, introspection and celebration, all into solitary works is an impressive feat.

The world's turmoil is no secret and Miguel is fully aware. With *War & Leisure*, he urges listeners to appreciate all the good that life has to offer, yet also to be mindful of its inevitable misfortunes. From the *War & Leisure* gets an 8.5/10.

Kicks to Cop: December 2017

Darc Cottingham
Managing Editor

There's nothing like copping a fresh new pair of sneakers. It's like being a kid in a candy store. Each sneaker is filled with so much possibility of flavor and style. This month is filled with must haves from Adidas, Jordan, and Nike.



Nike Little Posite One Hey Penny
COLOR
White/Black
RELEASE DATE
Dec. 02, 2017
STYLE CODE
644791-101
PRICE
\$180.00

This new release of the Nike Little Posite One features a colorway that pays tribute to the classic "Hey Penny" Penny Hardaway ad from 1995. The design of the ad/paster is embedded onto the design of the upper with black writing on the white foam shell. The midsole features the inverse of this design. The shoe has a black mini swoosh in the eyestay, white laces, and a translucent outsole to complete the sneaker.

Nike KD 10 Multi-color
COLOR
Multi-Color/Black-Cool Grey-White
RELEASE DATE
Dec. 07, 2017
PRICE
\$150.00

The Nike KD 10 get's a new colorway in the form of this Multicolor theme. The sneaker features a festive bright colored knitted upper. Grey hues are used for the laces, tongue, heel and collar portions. A white rubber sole with Zoom Air cushioning completes the style.



Nike WMNS Air Foamposite One Shine
COLOR
Dark Stucco/Dark Stucco-Black
RELEASE DATE
Dec. 14, 2017
STYLE CODE
AA3963-001
PRICE
\$230.00

The women's Nike Air Foamposite One Shine features a full color-changing foam shell contrasted by the Black accents on the carbon fiber mid-foot plate paired up with a translucent outsole. Dark Stucco can be found on the laces, lining, pull tabs and heel.

INVINCIBLE X NEIGHBORHOOD X Adidas NMD R1
COLOR
Ice Jade/Circuit Orange-Sail
RELEASE DATE
Dec. 29, 2017
PRICE
\$200.00

This Adidas Consortium is the collaborative product of highly-coveted Japanese label NEIGHBORHOOD and cult Taiwanese retailer INVINCIBLE's team-up of the Adidas NMD R1. The sneaker features a monochrome upper. The upper features a subtle black-on-black tiger stripe print on the signature Adidas stripes. On the right heel is a bold accent of a golden tiger head. On the left heel, the Kanji character for "Good Fortune" boldly pops. Beautifully embroidered designs pay homage to traditional tapestries of East Asia. This modern design features white EVA plugs with both partners' names in black. This sneaker had a special release on November 24th at INVINCIBLE via invincible.com.tw which will be followed by a global release at select Adidas Consortium accounts on December 29th.



Family Matters: A Holiday To-do List

Faith Johnson
Lifestyle Editor



Deck the Halls

This holiday season, it's important that you spend quality time with your family. This doesn't mean you have to plan some expensive trip, but instead, a little organized bonding to keep love, care, and the best of spirits in the air.

To bring about some family bonding and holiday cheer, you can also deck the halls with some festive decorating. Make arts and crafts for young and old. No matter how "ugly" a piece turns out, you'll always have an item to match to a memory for a lifetime. The art you create will be a reminder of good spirits year round.

Zoo Lights

A popular trend and a beautiful place for taking pictures with the family this holiday season, is Houston Zoo Lights. It's a great way to keep all ages engaged, while also providing picture perfect memories at every turn. The Houston Zoo Lights features a synchronized music light show and much more. It is a must see for only less than \$20 a ticket. Save yourself the trouble of a long wait in line and order tickets online at: zoolights.houstonzoo.org

Most importantly, the best and most beautiful way to bring the family together is by decorating the tree. With everyone adding their own flavor and their own style of ornaments. Make everyone's idea matter! After it's finished, you can start (or continue -- if you do so already) a tradition by having the youngest family member plant the star on top of the tree. This will create an annual tradition for your family. Take a step back and be thankful for life and the loved ones in it. This will be a constant reminder of everyone's contribution when looking upon the tree.

Holiday Movies

Another way to get the family out of the house would be a simple trip to the movies for a must see holiday flick for just 10\$ at an any AMC theater. Now let's say it actually gets cold outside and you're caught by the weather, make the most of it! Choose a warm family members house, call up the family, and watch those classic holiday movies for free on your favorite television network. Make s'mores and pop popcorn to start off the night, then relax and laugh with the ones you hold most dear to you.

Give Back to Those in Need

Before you close out the holidays, realize the best form of family bonding is helping, one family to another. A trip to any local shelter or food bank is a great petition of love and togetherness. A trip to these locations with the family is sure to make a mark because the season is all about giving back. In the famous words of the BET movie director Troy Byer, "Love don't cost a thing".



(Right to left) Atzhiry Paz (Historian), Kinza Rizwan (Sophomore representative), Alexandra Cromer (Senior Representative), Chonique Long (Fundraising chair), Aliyah Al-Islam (Chaplin), Chizorbam Diribe (Miss Undergraduate Medical Academy), Christian Farley (Mr. Undergraduate Medical Academy), Duban Oneyejobu (Treasurer), Alexandria Talley (President), Enobong Bob (Junior representative), Yaseen Maleki (Vice President), Jazmin Villegas (Secretary), Aubryane DeAmras (Sargent at Arms)

The mission of the Undergraduate Medical Academy (UMA) is consistent with the overall mission of Prairie View A & M University and the Texas A & M University System. The UMA is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, service and professional development. The UMA emphasizes the integration of leadership development and pre-medical science education, without sacrificing concern and compassion for the community. Set forth by: House Bill 85 and Senate Bill 1009.

Pictured above is 2017 – 2018 Mr. and Miss UMA along with the executive board. Chizorbam Diribe, Miss UMA, exhibits excellence in several ways. She is a student of the Early Medical School Acceptance Program associated with the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. She has participated in the National Heart, Lung, & Blood Diversity Research Program. She has scored exceptionally high on the MCAT, and tutors the biological sciences at the student library.



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Christian Farley, Mr. UMA also has outstanding qualities. He has made a significant contribution of service as secretary for the on-campus organization Men and Women of Vision Club. He recently traveled to Phoenix, Arizona where he presented his research regarding different delivery methods of doxycycline to an inducible mouse model of renal lymphatic expansion at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. Mr. and Miss UMA are both students of the Honors Program.

The Undergraduate Medical Academy focuses on students interested in pursuing careers in medicine, veterinary medicine, and dentistry. All 94 students of the UMA have equally prestigious yet unique experiences in either research, academics or leadership and will represent Prairie View A&M University well throughout their future endeavors.



'The consumerism trap': *What are the Holidays All About?*



20 *Ask anonymously*
Questions

1. Where are the rest of the questions?
2. Did you submit any?
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These questions are for entertainment purposes ONLY. The questions are retrieved via anonymous student submission and are NOT the views of The Panther Newspaper. They should be read as gossip ONLY, NOT as fact. Want to tell us what YOU think? Please bring YOUR comments and questions to Rm.216 MSC, e-mail us at thepanthernp@yahoo.com, or submit anonymously at ask.fm/PVPantherOnline

BLACK FRIDAY

PROS:

BIG DISCOUNTS ON MOSTLY SUBPAR ELECTRONIC GOODS.

HEY, THAT'S A GOOD PRICE FOR A CRAPASONIC!

SHOEBOXBLOG.COM

CONS:

SALES BEGIN AT 5 A.M. AND YOU WILL LIKELY BE CRUSHED IN A HUMAN STAMPEDE.

I REGRET NOTHING!

-brian.

Amira Wynn
Copy Editor

As Christmas nears, so does the need to find the best deals on gifts. Finding the most affordable gifts that somehow out do last year's is the ultimate goal. No longer is the holiday season about spending time with family, eating good food, enjoying Christmas lights and singing carols around the fire. No, it's all about getting the biggest, best present for the lowest price.

For years, Black Friday, Cyber Monday and after Christmas sales have been a hectic time where people compete for the "hottest" item each year. We've become so brainwashed into thinking we need to find a gift to outdo last year's that we forget what the holidays are all about.

Consumerism has completely dominated the holidays, and I'm not sure if we can go back.

If you don't agree, then just look at the Black Friday sales that have pushed further and further into the time spent with family. No longer does Black Friday start at midnight; it starts at 6 p.m. Companies fight for an earlier spot to sell more products without caring that they are intruding on our family time. We flock to the malls, convinced if we find the perfect gift, we'll save Christmas, but by going to the malls and participating in these sales we've fallen into the consumerism trap.

The holidays alone bring companies millions, if not billions, of dollars in revenue. Ac-

ording to Time.com, Amazon made \$4.74 billion from Thanksgiving through Cyber Monday last year.

Now, I'm not one to pass on a good sale, but the whole idea of consumerism during the holidays is one that we often don't think about. We mindlessly scramble to the malls or online to find gifts for loved ones, rather than spending time with them. When it's all said and done, we wish we had spent more time with our family and friends. The holidays go by so fast, and no amount spent or how many presents given will compensate for that time lost.

Consumerism may always be a part of the holiday season, but that doesn't mean we have to fall into its hands. Of course, giving away presents will probably always be a part of the season, but we have the power to not participate in these intruding sales. Rather than going to these sales that start at dinner time for a product you don't need or for a sale that's only 5 percent off more than its regular price, you should spend those moments with family.

Time is precious and not guaranteed. Every time we hurry in these ridiculous sales, we're just giving these companies exactly what they want from us. Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Cyber Monday, Christmas, and Valentine's Day, equate to four months of shopping that we feel pressured to participate in. By no means am I telling anyone to not go and shop, but rather I urge you to stop and think about why you're shopping at 6 p.m. when your family is at home eating dinner.

So, I guess the question we all have to ask ourselves is, what are the holidays all about? Spending time with family and friends? Or just another excuse for expensive and otherwise needless gifts?

~~Merry Christmas~~ Happy Holidays!

Amira Wynn
Copy Editor



**It's really strange America is the largest
Christian Nation in The world ,
and we can't say "MERRY CHRISTMAS "!!**

The Christmas season is supposed to be a time of joy, relaxation, and faith as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and appreciate the time spent with family and friends. However, Christmas has lost its novelty thanks to the politically correct saying, "Happy Holidays."

Although I'm thankful that the United States has made strides to become a more inclusive country that is attempting to accept all races, religions, languages, and sexualities, but by putting us all in one melting pot during this season is counterproductive to the inclusiveness.

The controversy over "Happy Holidays" as opposed to "Merry Christmas" has been around for over a decade. People can't agree on whether to be politically correct or to just say the phrase that seems far too taboo to say nowadays.

For Christians, this part of the year is a sacred time to reflect on the birth of Jesus. For non-Christians, this season is still considered a significant time to celebrate with family and friends. Both sides still give gifts and make extravagant feasts, the dif-

ference is the label that's associated with it.

"Happy Holidays" has been around since the early 2000s after several parents complained that "Merry Christmas" excluded their children from celebrating the season of their own faiths. Parents that practiced atheism and non-Christian faiths objected to the dominating Christmas theme. Because of this, Christmas has been simply replaced with "holiday." Companies hold "holiday parties," schools have "holiday concerts," advertisers hold "holiday sales," and everywhere you go, everyone says "Happy Holidays."

Now, I'm not a religious person myself, I consider myself more spiritual or agnostic, but this whole Happy Holidays epidemic is ridiculous. Just like everything else in the world, everything has to be so politically correct. But, America can often be a hypocrite. How can we as a society say "Happy Holidays" when we go out to enjoy Christmas lights and decorate Christmas trees in our own homes. Parents of all cultures even wait in hour long lines for their children to

take pictures with Santa at the mall. We go out and say "Happy Holidays" to the public but go home and decorate our houses with National Lampoon-like Christmas lights and decorations. So what's the point of "Happy Holidays?" It's okay for us to show that we believe in a certain faith, but not talk about it?

My question is, when did we become so scared? America is supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave, right? The First Amendment in the constitution specifically prohibits congress from making any law respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise of religion, or abridging the freedom of speech. So, why do we care about being politically correct? I'll tell you why, it's because everyone in this country has come from a vastly different culture which then introduces vastly different religions and customs.

This country was built on the backbone of Christian ideals despite the separation of church and state. If you don't believe this, then look at the same-sex marriage and abortion ar-

guments. Whether we like it or not, Christianity has a large presence in this country, which makes sense to see Christmas trees and Christmas lights on every corner. However, you often find the scrooges that say "What about Hanukkah/Chanukah and Kwanzaa?" Well, over 70 percent of the country is Christian, or some type of denomination under Christianity, so until other religions in this country start to see a surge in conversions, Christmas will prevail as a dominating holiday theme.

Personally, I feel about 50-50 on this whole issue. At some extent I have been brought up by Christian ideals despite not actually labeling myself as a Christian. On the other hand, I have personally witnessed some of my friends not allowed to participate in Christmas activities at school because of their faith. Christianity may be the most prominent religion in this country, but there's no denying that non-Christian and non-affiliated religions exist.

If saying "Happy Holidays" is a way to keep everyone calm and to not make anyone feel "left out" then

so be it. However, "Merry Christmas" is not a saying that pressures anyone to be a Christian. I don't walk around shopping hearing "Merry Christmas" thinking I'm disrespecting my God by accepting the greeting or thinking I have to convert to Christianity. To me, it's simply a phrase. It all depends on how much of a deal you make out of it. I highly doubt any God, spirit, or holy ghost will get offended by someone telling you "Merry Christmas," but here we are in 2017 too scared to say the phrase.

"Merry Christmas" is the traditional saying that spreads joy to everyone. "Happy Holidays" just doesn't hold the same weight. Rather than worrying about being so politically correct, we should focus on spending time with our family and friends and enjoying the holidays. This year you should say whatever you want. In the end it doesn't matter what you say but what you do. This season is all about family, giving back, and rejoicing.

So, Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Holidays, and Season's Greetings to all!