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T H E

PANTHER
NEWSPAPER

Why the World is “Flat”:
Bakari Sellers Talks Politics, Identity, and *Scandal*

Johari Wiley
Editor-in-Chief

On Nov.11, Prairie View A&M University's Men of Color Leadership Institute held a brunch to close out a weekend of events that aimed to empower and inspire young men. Lawyer, politician and political analyst, Bakari Sellers, was the event's keynote speaker. Sellers spoke on a variety of subjects such as his political background, what motivates his fight for civil rights, what young people can do to enact positive change and more. Following the brunch, Sellers expanded on his thoughts with several Prairie View student leaders in a candid discussion.

Johari Wiley: As an African-American, what has been your biggest challenge while working on CNN and the platform that is American politics?

Bakari Sellers: Well I think that in media it's a little different than it is in just basic politics. In the media, my goals are quite simple: to be an example, to not fall into any stereotypes, not be made to be an angry black man. In politics though, you want to uplift your community, you want to be the example as well, but you want to provide a means in a way by which you can uplift your community, in all communities for that matter. And so the challenge is very real: As I told people earlier, being young, being black, being a democrat and being from the south, sometimes make your plight in life that much heavier, but it's a burden which I'm willing to bear.

JW: A common question that I hear among young people is “How do we, as college students, make an impact, socially, through civil rights?”

Well, I mean we wouldn't have had any of the successes we've had without college students. I mean if you think about all of the movements throughout our time, young people were always the leaders of those movements. From the civil rights movement, the gay rights movement, the women's rights movement, they were all led by figures who were young. You know, King was very young, my father was very young, my father (Dr. Cleveland Sellers) was fourteen, fifteen, when he first got involved. The sit-in movement started Feb.1, 1960 with three students from North Carolina A&T. What I would challenge everybody at Prairie View to do is to make sure that they're willing to take their activism outside of the gates of their university and effectuate change throughout the entire state of Texas.

Daric Cottingham: I do know that sometimes [politics] is not for each person, but how do you know whether you are the Olivia Pope or the Fitzgerald Grant (from ABC's *Scandal*) in the efforts to make change?

Well one, you watch way too much T.V., cause ain't none of that [expletive] real. [laughs] I know Kerry [Washington] very well, don't tell her I said that. I mean, I'm a firm believer that opportunities will present themselves; you need to focus on preparing yourself for that opportunity. And the experiences that you have now on campus are amazing, but make sure you layer those with experiences that I call “co-curricular”. Not extracurricular, but things that parallel your curriculum that give you other life experiences. And so, if you see yourself being the elected official, figure out how to do that, if you see yourself being the “fixer”, then start beginning to find avenues where you can work in that realm. I know fixer's very well, and I know politicians very well. They both do exist.

Kirsten Budwine: There is so much going on in the world, like Donald Trump, local elections, racism, and all types of things. How do we stay on top of what's important in the political realm?

Everyday I read the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*. In the mornings I read my local newspapers, late mornings I read the *L.A. Times*. I read the *Atlantic* and the *New Yorker* when they come out. You have to have an insatiable desire to learn as much as possible

and for me that just requires consuming so much. I don't read as many books as I should because books take time, and so I read a lot of news and a lot of news magazines. The *Atlantic* and the *New Yorker* are top flight. And Ta-Nehisi. Anything Ta-Nehisi writes, I read.

KB: Ta-Nehisi?

Ta-Nehisi Coates? You've never heard of Ta-Nehisi?

KB: No sir.

Ta-Nehisi is the James Baldwin of our generation. He's worth the read. He wrote a piece [on Trump] in the *Atlantic* recently, called *The First White President*.

KB: Do you feel like social media helps to get the correct narratives out?

No, social media lacks context, but social media is the reason why the world is “flat”. The reason why twitter is a great resource is because of its interconnectivity. You can communicate with people throughout the entire world; it fundamentally makes the world flat. But the reason that it sucks sometimes is because it is without nuance and without context. It's hard to have nuance and context in 140 characters.

JW: How do you balance your life between politics, being on CNN as an analyst, and being a lawyer?

Well that's tough, I mean you've got to have good people around you, my law firm (Strom Law Firm, L.L.C.) is amazing. This past week on Monday, I was in Chicago, on Tuesday, I was in D.C., Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, I was in the office. Friday night I flew to Houston to be here. It's a tough schedule, it's a grind. I think it was the great American poet, Christopher Wallace, who said “we sleep when we die.” I'm a Notorious B.I.G fan and I hold that in high esteem.

JW: So you, as a lawyer, you're actually in the courtroom working cases?

Yeah, I was in the [at] jail yesterday. Before I went to the airport, I went to jail to visit a black homeless man, who is a paranoid schizophrenic, who has been accused of murder. His family came to see me. I'm an expensive lawyer, but yes I am a lawyer.

JW: Do you ever think that causes conflict in the courtroom with you being a television personality?

Oh yea, people hate going up against me. Jurors see me and judges will be like “Man I watched you last night”... It doesn't mean that I'm going to win, you still have to be prepared. Sometimes it backfires because people have a higher expectation [of you], because I talk about the law on T.V. too. The smartest lawyer I know is on T.V., Jeffrey Toobin.

JW: What do you see as the next step for you in politics?

Well I haven't been shy about saying that I think my trajectory would have been different if Hillary Clinton was elected president. However, I am very excited about what the future may hold. I want to run for Congress, and I will run for Congress when that opportunity presents itself. If that opportunity doesn't present itself then we'll run statewide for Governor of South Carolina. Those are probably the only two offices that I would run for, having already served in the House [of Representatives], and ran for lieutenant governor.

Student Government Association President, Kendrick Jones: How do you balance your tasks as well as gain your personal knowledge and wealth with so much limited time?

You've got to believe in self-care. That's important, because if you're not mentally and emotionally healthy... like I work out four to five times a week, it is what it is, I always try to get it. Usually it's just me and my trainer and she knows which moods I'm in. Some days we'll laugh and joke when I'm working out and some days we don't say anything, because I'm occupied in my head.



Photo by Amia Mayo

You've got to make sure you spend time with family, that's important... People ask me all the time: “Where are you going to be in five years, ten years? Man, I don't know!” What I can do though is, I can control, like, today and tomorrow, so I'm a real big proponent for just working on what's in front of me and making sure I make the most out of today and see what happens from there.

KJ: When did you get to the point where you felt comfortable being yourself in any environment? I've just gotten to a point where our president was like “Kendric stop covering up your tattoos. If you have tattoos, oh well.” That's why when I saw your tattoos I was like “bro, what?!”

[laughs] Naw I have a lot of them. There's value in images and appearances. You know one of my favorite pictures of all time is a Getty image of

when I spoke at the DNC (Democratic National Convention) and I waved, and I always wave with my left hand, and you can see, very clearly, a tattoo of my daughter's name. Images matter, but we're in a time now where who you are matters more and if that's a part of who you are, then you've got to live with it. You have to live with you, nobody else has to live with you. You should be able to feel comfortable, if you're ever uncomfortable then you need to change something.

Correction: In the Friday, Oct.13, 2017 edition, the article “The Powerpuff Girls” Add Surprising New Character was incorrectly credited to Faith Johnson, Lifestyle Editor. The correct writer of the article was contributing writer, Anaya Wesley.

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Gunman targets people at random in California town, kills 4



Don Thompson & Paul Elias
News Contributors

RANCHO TEHAMA RESERVE, Calif. (AP) — A gunman driving stolen vehicles and choosing his targets at random opened fire “without provocation” in a tiny, rural Northern California town Tuesday, killing four people and wounding at least 10 others, including a student at an elementary school, before police shot him dead, authorities said.

The rampage began shortly before 8 a.m. when the gunman fatally shot a neighbor he had been accused of stabbing in January, Tehama County Assistant Sheriff Phil Johnston said.

Shortly afterward, the gunman rammed through the gate of Rancho Tehama Elementary School about 2

miles away and spent about six minutes shooting into the building, striking at least one student, Johnston said.

Surveillance video showed the gunman, who was not identified, trying unsuccessfully to enter the school, authorities said.

School officials’ swift decision to lock the doors after hearing gunfire was “monumental” in saving the lives of countless children, Johnston said. No one was killed there.

The gunman left the school after he could not get inside and purposely crashed the stolen truck he was driving into another vehicle and shot at its occupants, Johnston said.

The shooter stole the car of a person who stopped to check on the crash and ran away when confronted with a gun. He continued the rampage until police shot him about 45 minutes after it started, Johnston said.

“This man was very, very bent on completing what he set out to do,” the assistant sheriff said.

The shootings occurred in the rural community of Rancho Tehama Reserve, a homeowners association of modest houses and trailers in rolling oak woodlands dotted with grazing cattle about 130 miles north of Sacramento.

Experts: Bush groping allegations would be hard to prosecute

Nomaan Merchant
News Contributor



HOUSTON (AP) — Allegations that former President George H.W. Bush inappropriately touched six women involve potential crimes punishable by fines or jail time, if they had been prosecuted.

All but one of the cases is ineligible under state laws that limit when a prosecution can begin after an alleged crime, and several lawyers interviewed said that it would be difficult to win a conviction against Bush, who has vascular parkinsonism, a rare syndrome that mimics Parkinson’s disease.

“You’re still going to be facing prosecuting a 93-year-old man in a wheelchair that’s a former president,”

said Toby Shook, a lawyer who previously served as a prosecutor in Dallas. “I doubt if you could ever find a jury that would ever want to convict him.”

There’s no indication prosecutors are planning to pursue a case against Bush. Jordana Grolnick, an actress who alleged that Bush groped her behind last year as his wife, Barbara, stood nearby, told The Associated Press that she has no plans to report the 41st president to authorities. That appears to be the only incident that hasn’t reached the local statute of limitations on how long a crime can be prosecuted after it occurs.

The six incidents occurred in

Police offered no immediate word on the assailant’s motive, but a sheriff’s official said the shooter’s neighbors had reported a domestic violence incident a day earlier. Officials did not specify who was involved or what happened.

Brian Flint told the Record Searchlight newspaper in the city of Redding that his neighbor, whom he knows only as Kevin, was the gunman and that his roommate was among the victims. He said the shooter stole his truck.

“The crazy thing is that the neighbor has been shooting a lot of bullets lately, hundreds of rounds, large magazines,” Flint said. “We made it aware that this guy is crazy and he’s been threatening us.”

Johnston said officials received multiple 911 calls about gunfire at an intersection of two dirt roads in the upper reaches of the sparsely populated neighborhood. Minutes later, more calls reporting shots flooded in from different locations, including a small elementary school.

“It was very clear at the onset that we had an individual that was randomly picking targets,” Johnston said.

Witnesses reported hearing gunshots and children screaming at the school, which has one class of students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Johnston said the student shot at the school was flown by helicopter to a hospital, and another student was wounded in a car on the way to school.

He said authorities believe they know the identity of the shooter but

declined to release his name pending further investigation. He appears to have fired a semiautomatic rifle and two handguns at seven locations, authorities said.

Salvador Tello said the gunman fired at a truck in front of him as he went to drop off his three children at school. Tello said he was about three blocks from the school when bullets made “big holes” in the truck.

He said he forced his children to duck down, slammed his vehicle into reverse and headed to the children’s grandmother’s house.

“I put my kids down and put my truck in reverse and went out,” he said. “I don’t believe it, because I wake up, take my kids, feed them cereal and put them in the truck and say, ‘Let’s go to school like a normal day.’”

On the way, he said he saw an apparent gunshot victim and police at another scene.

The rural subdivision is described on its website as a “quiet private country community” where “the people are friendly and the pace is relaxed.” The homeowner association’s website says there are 2,016 lots in the community and 1,346 voting members.

“It’s pretty quiet,” said 14-year resident Vince Broff, who lives about a mile from the school but was kept away from his home for more than three hours.

Before a law enforcement crackdown, marijuana farming was prevalent in the isolated area several years ago down and appeared to attract some crime, but “nothing this serious,” Broff said.



Meek Mill’s lawyers ask judge to step down before appeal

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A lawyer for Meek Mill is asking a Philadelphia judge to recuse herself before he appeals the rapper’s sentence of two to four years in prison.

Common Pleas Judge Genece Brinkley sentenced Mill last week for violating probation in a nearly decade-old gun and drug case.

On Tuesday, his lawyers asked Brinkley to step down, saying she stepped out of her judicial bounds numerous times. Among the examples cited was the judge suggesting Mill record a version of the Boyz II Men song “On Bended Knee” and specifically mention the judge in it. The lawyer says after Mill declined, the judge replied: “Suit yourself.”

On Monday night, former Philadelphia 76er Julius Erving, Eagles player Malcolm Jenkins and rapper Rick Ross were among hundreds of people gathered to protest Mill’s imprisonment.

forward since then, including Roslyn Corrigan, who told Time magazine Monday that Bush groped her as they took a photo in 2003, when Corrigan was 16, during an event in The Woodlands, a Houston suburb.

The AP generally does not identify victims of sexual assault without their consent, but is using the names of women who have spoken publicly on social media or in news reports.

Three of the incidents are reported to have occurred in Texas. Shook said that under Texas law, touching someone’s buttocks over the person’s clothing would most likely be grounds for a misdemeanor assault charge, with only a \$500 fine and no jail time.

In Maine, where Bush is accused of grabbing two women, those allegations could give rise to a charge of assault or unlawful sexual touching, punishable by up to a year in jail, said Walt McKee, a defense attorney in Augusta, Maine.

And in Pennsylvania, where a retired newspaper journalist has accused Bush of touching her during an event in Erie, the state’s law against indecent assault could apply, said Richard Settgast, an adjunct law professor at Penn State University.

A key question in any prosecution, the lawyers said, would be

whether the suspect touched the victim for sexual gratification or by accident. While age and physical disability would factor into any determination, Settgast said, “I don’t necessarily think that just because someone’s infirm, they wouldn’t be able to be held accountable.”

Bush, who served as president from 1989 to 1993, is a beloved figure in both Texas and Maine, the two states where he lives. Two days after the first woman accused Bush of misconduct, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner tweeted that Bush was “a statesman and role model to me.” Days later, Bush joined his son, former President George W. Bush, on the field before Game 5 of baseball’s World Series to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Sessions denies lying on Russia, pleads hazy memory

Eric Tucker & Sadie Gurman
News Contributors



WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Tuesday displayed a hazy memory of the Trump campaign’s discussions about and dealings with Russians in the 2016 election, denying he ever lied to Congress about those contacts but blaming the chaos of the race for fogging his recollections.

During more than five hours of testimony to Congress, Sessions sought to explain away apparent contradictions in his earlier accounts by citing the exhausting nature of Donald Trump’s upstart but surging bid for the White House. He also denied under repeated questioning from Democrats that he had been influenced by Trump.

But after saying under oath months ago that he was unaware of any relationship between the campaign and Russia, Sessions acknowledged for the first time that the arrest of a low-level campaign adviser reminded him after all of a meeting at which the aide, George Papadopoulos, proposed setting up a get-together between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“After reading his account and to the best of my recollection,” Sessions

told the House Judiciary Committee, “I believe that I wanted to make clear to him that he was not authorized to represent the campaign with the Russian government or any other foreign government for that matter.”

“But I did not recall this event, which occurred 18 months before my testimony of a few weeks ago,” he added, “and I would gladly have reported it had I remembered it because I pushed back against his suggestion that I thought may have been improper.”

Papadopoulos was arrested by the FBI and pleaded guilty last month to lying to authorities about his own foreign contacts during the campaign. That guilty plea came in a wide-ranging criminal investigation led by former FBI Director Robert Mueller, who as the Justice Department’s special counsel is looking into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to sway the outcome of the 2016 presidential election and into whether the firing of James Comey as FBI director was an effort to obstruct justice.

During the Trump campaign, Sessions, then an Alabama senator, led a campaign foreign policy advisory council on which Papadopoulos served. The attorney general has struggled since January to move past questions about his own foreign contacts and about his knowledge of Russian outreach efforts during the election effort.

Each congressional hearing, including Tuesday’s, has focused on Sessions’ own recollections, and he recused himself in March from the Justice Department’s investigation into election meddling after acknowledging two previously undisclosed encounters during the campaign with the Russian ambassador to the United States.

Questions for Sessions have only deepened since the guilty plea last month of Papadopoulos and recent statements to congressional investigators by another foreign policy adviser, Carter Page, who has said he alerted Sessions last year about a trip he planned to take to Russia during the campaign. Sessions insisted Tuesday that he did not recall that conversation with Page at all and appeared incredulous at times that he could be expected to remember the details of conversations from more than a year ago.

“In all of my testimony, I can only do my best to answer all of your questions as I understand them and to the best of my memory,” Sessions told the House Judiciary Committee. “But I will not accept, and reject, accusations that I have ever lied. That is a lie.”

Sessions insisted that his story had never changed and that he had never been dishonest. But he also suggested to the committee that it was unfair to expect him to recall “who said what when” during the campaign.

“It was a brilliant campaign, I think, in many ways, but it was a form of chaos every day from day one,” Sessions said. “We traveled some times to several places in one day. Sleep was in short supply and I was still a full-time senator ... with a very full schedule.”

The oversight hearing divided along stark partisan lines.

Republicans, buoyed by the announcement a day earlier that the Justice Department might be open to a new special counsel to investigate an Obama-era business transaction that Trump himself has railed against, repeatedly challenged the underpinnings of Mueller’s investigation. Democrats grilled him on the evolving explanations about how much he knew of communication during the campaign between Trump associates and Russian government intermediaries.

A day earlier, the Justice Department said Sessions had directed federal prosecutors to look into whether a special counsel might be merited to investigate allegations that the Clinton Foundation benefited from a uranium transaction involving a Russia-backed company during the Obama administration.

On Tuesday, Sessions said that any such review would be done without regard to political considerations.

“A president cannot improperly influence an investigation,” Sessions said in response to questions from the committee’s top Democrat, Rep. John Conyers of Michigan.

“And I have not been improperly influenced and would not be improperly influenced,” he added. “The president speaks his mind. He’s bold and direct about what he says, but people elected him. But we do our duty every day based on the law and the facts.”

3 UCLA players face punishment at home after China incident

Beth Harris
News Contributor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three UCLA basketball players detained in China on suspicion of shoplifting returned home, where they may be disciplined by the school as a result of the international scandal.

Freshmen LiAngelo Ball, Jalen Hill and Cody Riley arrived at Los Angeles International Airport late Tuesday afternoon after a 12-hour flight from Shanghai.

Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said the matter “has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Chinese authorities.”

The players were detained in Hangzhou for questioning following allegations of shoplifting last week before the 23rd-ranked Bruins beat Georgia Tech in their season-opening game in Shanghai as part of the Pac-12 China game. The rest of the UCLA team returned home last Saturday.

A person with knowledge of the Pac-12’s decision said any discipline involving the trio would be up to UCLA. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the conference doesn’t plan any sanctions.

UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said the school is weighing its options.

“I want to be clear that we take seriously any violations of the law,” he said in a statement. “In this particular case, both Athletics and the Office of Student Conduct will review this incident and guide any action with respect to the involved students. Such proceedings are confidential, which limits the specific information that can be shared.”

There was no immediate word on the trio’s status for the team’s home opener Wednesday night against Central Arkansas.

The school said the three players, along with coach Steve Alford and athletic director Dan Guerrero, will make their first public comments about the matter at a campus news

conference Wednesday, but won’t take questions.

Scott thanked President Donald Trump, the White House and the State Department for their efforts in resolving what he called “the incident with authorities in Hangzhou, China.” He indicated that UCLA made “significant efforts” on behalf of its athletes.

It wasn’t clear under what terms the players were freed to return to the U.S.

“We are all very pleased that these young men have been allowed to return home to their families and university,” Scott said.

Trump said Tuesday he had a long conversation about the three players’ status with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

Ball, Hill and Riley were expected to have an immediate impact as part of UCLA’s highly touted recruiting class. Instead, they are being talked about solely for their actions off the court.

Ball, a guard whose brother Lonzo is a rookie for the Los Angeles Lakers, averaged 33.8 points as a high school senior. The elder Ball played one season in Westwood and left early for the NBA draft.

The Balls’ outspoken father, LaVar, was in China at the time of the incident. He spent some time promoting the family’s Big Baller Brand of athletic shoes with his youngest son, LaMelo, while his middle son was detained.

Forwards Hill and Riley, both four-star recruits, figure to bolster 7-foot senior Thomas Welsh in the frontcourt.

The Bruins traveled to China as part of the Pac-12’s global initiative that seeks to popularize the league’s athletic programs and universities overseas. The China Game is in its third year, and while the scandal was developing the league announced that California and Yale will play in next year’s edition.

The game is sponsored by Alibaba Group, the Chinese commerce giant that both UCLA and Georgia Tech visited before the shoplifting incident occurred.

Texans Seek Stability While Replacing Watson

Andre Davis
Sports Editor

Following an ACL tear that required season ending surgery, Houston Texans' rookie quarterback Deshaun Watson has left the team with a noticeable void.

According to the Houston Chronicle report, Watson tore the ACL in his right knee during a non-contact play at a Nov. 2 team practice.

Without Deshaun Watson, the Texans took another heavy loss this Sunday, this time the Los Angeles Rams took control, winning by the score of 33-7. Watson's replacement, QB Tom Savage, completed just below 50 percent of his passes, which is lower than Watson's 62 percent pass completion before his injury. The week prior to this Sunday, Savage completed less than 45 percent of his passes which played a huge factor in the Texans' loss to AFC South rivals, Indianapolis Colts by the score of 20-14.

The Houston Texans traded up from No. 25 to select Deshaun Watson with the No. 12 overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft. Although he did not start right away, Watson's arrival to Houston was right on schedule. Watson got his official NFL debut in week one by relieving QB Tom Savage of his duties in the middle of a 29-7 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars.

When Deshaun Watson was on the field, he improved the team's overall offensive efficiency. In only six full game starts, he completed 61.8 percent of his passes for 1,699 yards and 19 touchdowns. At this rate, Watson was on the path to breaking the single-season touchdown record (26) by a rookie QB, which is still being held by Peyton Manning.

What does this mean for the Texans?

The absence of Watson has taken a major hit on the city of Houston. What does this ultimately mean for the Houston Texans organization moving forward? It's sad and depressing to take into consideration that the city of Houston couldn't even enjoy a championship celebration for 24 hours without receiving some horrific news. This honestly does not look



good for the Texans moving forward. Sure, you can throw in the fact that Deshaun Watson is very young and they will more than likely have him as their quarterback for multiple years to come. But, on the flipside of that, the Texans have a game this Sunday against the 4-5, Arizona Cardinals and six more games to play throughout the remainder of the season.

As of now, the Texans are currently sitting eleventh in the American Football Conference (AFC) with a 3-6 record behind the New York Jets (4-6 overall). At the hands of Deshaun Watson, the Texans were playing right at .500 football and were the favorites to come out on top of the AFC South. Now that he's out for season, who's going to step out and fill the shoes of Watson and breathe life into this Texans organization?

Taking the league by storm and being known, as the "rookie sensation" is what Watson will be remembered for this year. There's one particular game by Watson that stood out to not only the owner, the coaches and the players-but to the fans and the city of Houston as well. In the Texans' 41-38 loss to the Seattle Seahawks on Oct. 29, 2017, one could argue how that loss boiled down to horrible coaching because the numbers that Deshaun Watson put up, as a rookie, were completely remarkable. Watson completed 19 passes off 30 attempts for 402 yards and four touchdowns. Completing 63 percent of his passes, Watson also rushed for 67 yards on eight carries in that game. The momentum that Watson brought to this Texans offense made a huge impact on what their success would've been moving forward.

I mentioned the direction of the Texans for the remainder of this season and how they are going to ultimately have to replace him. Instead of going after a veteran QB like Colin Kaepernick, who has proven himself in the league and has led a team to the super bowl, the Texans are simply ignoring that factor entirely. But what else is new, right? Instead, the Texans added T.J. Yates and Matt McGloin to the QB room. Matt McGloin spent the last three years in Oakland before becoming a free agent. T.J. Yates spent his first three years in Houston and his previous year in Miami. Both QBs will back up Tom Savage in their upcoming game against the Cardinals. After that, they have six games left without their rookie sensation.

Woods announces return to golf

Anaya Wesley
Sports Contributor



Tiger Woods announcing his return to the sport of golf after a nine month absence has generated a cautious buzz across all social media platforms.

Woods took time off after experiencing a back injury that, upon closer examination, revealed the presence of nerve damage. Throughout his career, from about 2015 to 2016, Woods has withdrawn from multiple events, citing back spasms as his primary injury. He underwent surgery to fuse the damaged ligaments in his back and has reportedly recovered as well as can be expected.

He has had four surgeries in the last three years. His manager has been making positive yet simultaneously vague comments about the nature of his client's future. A video was posted on Twitter during late February that showed Woods hitting a particularly clean stroke against a simulated golf course in what looked like a section of his home. Everything in his mechanics seemed to be in working order, but fans and reporters of the golf world aren't sure what this means for the pro golfer, who always seems to be leading a turbulent life.

The video stoked the desire that fans, players and sponsors alike hold while they desperately wait for the legend to return. However, most aren't expecting much from Woods because, unfortunately, this has happened before.

Woods' career always seems to be hanging in the balance, based off of some new injury or incident, and this most recent one was thought to be the one that would end the professional golfer's career. Not to mention, Woods isn't known for only having issues on the green, but in his private life as well. From his oldest troubles which involved allegations of him cheating on his wife and what would later turn into a sex scandal; Tiger Woods' activities, up until his recent absence, have been littered with DUIs, arrests by the police, and multiple withdrawals from seasonal, big name golfing tournaments.

Many fans continue to be disappointed in Woods' continual delay of his return to golf. It's similar to how R&B artist Frank Ocean waited two to three years before dropping an 'okay' album, but hyped it the entire time as the best. The golfing world isn't expecting much, but deep inside they can't help but hope that this will be the return that Tiger needs to get back into the swing of things, and this time to stay for good.

Will he be able to step up to the tee? Will Woods be able to get his life, that is usually in shambles, together for this season? Or will this return be the let down the world is expecting? We as reporters, sports and golf fans, will have to wait and see. Let's go, Woods.

Houston Astros Win First World Series in Franchise History



Andre Davis
Sports Editor

It's parade time in Houston as the Astros took down the Los Angeles Dodgers and are now the 2017 World Series Champions.

This was certainly a thrilling World Series from start to finish, and for the first time in franchise history, the Houston Astros sealed the deal in game seven with a 5-1 victory over

Los Angeles. Their last appearance to the World Series dates back to 2005 against the Chicago White Sox.

It was a series defined by relief pitching and home runs, and Game 7 had both. Neither starting pitcher made it out of the third inning, with the teams combining to use eight relievers. On offense, the Astros were powered to victory by center fielder George Springer, who hit a homerun for the fourth consecutive game, and

tied Reggie Jackson and Chase Utley for the most home runs in a single World Series with five. Springer finished the 2017 postseason with six home runs.

After everything that Houston suffered this year with Hurricane Harvey, a national championship was right on schedule for the city.

According to Benjamin Hoffman and David Waldstein of the New York Times, this was certainly a mo-

ment worth waiting for.

"I just remember swinging and hearing the sound of the bat and I knew it was a good sound, and then I saw the flight of the ball," said Springer, who was named Most Valuable Player. "I got to first base and I rounded third and got home, and that's a crazy feeling. It's a very surreal feeling because this is Game 7. This is what you dream of as a kid and for that to happen is indescribable."

You don't think about the historical struggles of the Astros because it's not a part of their identity. In other words, the Astros' drought isn't soaked into who they are as a team. You can literally talk to an Astros fan for hours before getting to the part of the conversation where his or her favorite team has not won a single World Series game since they came into the league 56 years ago. But, that's not the story of the Astros and it's definitely not the story of Houston.

From beginning to end, the team's mentality this season was to "earn it." Fifty-six years is a long time for a franchise that only made one World Series appearance until this year. The Astros and even the city of Houston could have easily start complaining about their lack of World Series experience up to this point, but they did the total opposite of that. Their motto was simple and plain. Not feeling like it was owed to them, but work hard and earn it.

The team and the city avoided the deep sighs and self-pity and continued to fight until the very end. That kind of drive and passion is what ultimately makes individuals fall in love with your team and your city.

Garcia Relieved of Duties as Lady Panthers' Coach

Andre Davis
Sports Editor

Prairie View, Texas- On Monday, Nov. 6, Roger Abe Garcia was relieved of his duties as head soccer coach at Prairie View A&M University.

Coach Garcia served 10 seasons with the Lady Panthers before being let go the week following their first-round loss to TSU in the Southwestern Athletic Conference by the score of 1-0.

During Garcia's tenure at PVAMU, he led the Panthers to one NCAA Tournament appearance, two trips to the SWAC Tournament Championship match, and six trips to the semifinals as the Lady Panthers earned consecutive appearances in the SWAC postseason tournament.

Additionally, he coached players that earned 27 All-SWAC honors and 13 all-tournament team accolades.

The Lady Panthers were 6-9 overall and 6-2-2 in conference play this season. Often times when coaches are fired, it's typically because over the course of several years, they are not producing enough wins or championships.

The Lady Panthers will be without four seniors for their next season as the rest of the team will try to look past what has recently transpired.

Redshirt junior and team captain, Reina Cruz, took Coach Garcia's news extremely heavy.

"It's frustrating to realize that in thirty minutes an entire decade of his career is done," said Cruz. "I left work and I went straight to his office and I saw him packing and I knew then and there that it was real. He's really leaving. Garcia recruited me, so to watch him leave knowing that I still have one more year here is definitely a hard pill to swallow for me."

Cruz started in all 19 of Prairie View A&M's matches in 2015. Cruz played from start to finish in 14 of the Lady Panthers' 19 matches, which included two streaks of seven consecutive matches without needing a substitute and helped to anchor a defense that contributed to five shutout wins during the season. Cruz also played



1,600 minutes during the season, which ranked third among field players.

Due to a knee injury, Cruz missed all of the 2016 season.

"I understand that they were looking at Garcia's entire record since he's been here," said Cruz. "But at the same time, we had a very young team. Only four seniors [were on the team] ...which means Garcia was dealing

with freshmen and sophomores. That's not easy for a coach to deal with, to say that we had a winning conference record this year. I just wish they would've given him another chance, but now we'll never know."

Having a strong relationship with your players, as a coach, goes beyond the field of play. It's a bond that not even the absence of work can get rid of.

"I'll admit, my freshman year, me and Garcia didn't see eye to eye," said Cruz. "It was difficult to work with him because he was expecting me to play a certain way and at that time I hadn't developed the necessary skills to do so. I was young and transitioning from high school to [college]. He told me to go home, train and come back stronger and faster. It wasn't until my

sophomore year that we were able to talk strategically about soccer, but I believed in his message and I believed in his system."

The question as to who will be the next head coach for the Lady Panthers soccer team is still unknown, but the connection and chemistry between Garcia and the Lady Panthers will carry on forever.

PVAMU Football defeats Pine-Bluff on Senior Day

Andre Davis
Sports Editor

Prairie View, Texas - Passion and pride were on the line as the Prairie View A&M University football team defeated Arkansas Pine-Bluff 35-12 Saturday, Nov. 11, at Panther Stadium.

With over 8,000 fans in attendance, the Panthers rallied to an outstanding victory over the Lions on Senior Day. The afternoon took off with several United States Army members parachuting into Panther Stadium in honor of Veterans Day.

On his last home game as a Panther, wide receiver Khadarel Hodge set a school-record of 232 receiving yards and three touchdowns to aid the Panthers in their victory. Hodge's receiving yards total broke one of PVAMU football's oldest records, as the single-game receiving yards mark had stood since 1964. Prairie View A&M Sports Hall of Famer and AFL great, Otis Taylor, had completed 198 receiving yards in a single game more than 50 years ago. Hodge's eight receptions and three touchdowns also tied his own career high.

Quarterback and redshirt freshman, Neiko Hollins threw for 410 yards and four touchdowns in his second full start of the season.

The Panthers racked up a season-high of 610 yards, including the second straight 100-yard rushing game for running back Sta'Fon McCray (14-115-1).

Offensive lineman Shawn Pierce scored the first touchdown of the game for the Panthers off a 4-yard pass from Neiko Hollins with 9:41 remaining in the first quarter. The Panthers



final scoring play of the first quarter was a result of a 70-yard bomb from Hollins to Hodge midway through the quarter.

"I thought our team played well for a majority of the game," said head coach Willie Simmons. "As a coaching staff, we pride our guys on playing all phases of a football game and we were able to execute that game plan. Guys stepped up with some great individual efforts. Neiko threw for more than 400 yards today. Khadarel broke the single-game record for receiving yards. Sta'Fon had another 100-yard rushing game, and would have had more without some untimely penalties. I give major credit to the defense because they were able to keep Pine-Bluff from scoring for a majority of the game. I tip my hat to those guys. They gave great effort, and had great attention to detail this week. It was about time to put one of these type of games together."

After a pair of field-goals by the

Lions, Sta'Fon McCray sealed a 64-yard drive with a 9-yard touchdown to give the Panthers a 21-6 lead with 2:19 to go before halftime.

On their second drive of the third quarter, the Panthers went seven plays for 73 yards, capped off by a 17-yard touchdown reception from Hodge to extend the Panthers lead 28-6. The Panthers final 35-12 score came late in the fourth quarter when Hodge ran for 88 yards into Panther history from the Panthers' eight-yard line.

"Khadarel Hodge has been an excellent leader for our football team," said Simmons. "I've watched him grow and elevate his game to the next level over the past two months. The effort he shows in practice represents how he played on game day. A player like Khadarel Hodge makes a job like mine as a coach that much easier."

Prairie View A&M returns to action Thursday at 6 p.m. at the University of the Incarnate Word.



Photos by Andre Brown

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Must See TV:
Comic books Turn
the Page to the TV
Screen

Daric Cottingham
Managing Editor

Television and comic books are a past time that I've loved ever since I could remember and I love a classic binge worthy show. This Fall, The CW network is jam packed with comic book adaptations for television.



Riverdale

A show that brings the Archie comics to life on prime-time television. The series follows the lives of Archie Andrews (played by KJ Apa), and his best friends Jughead Jones (played by Cole Sprouse), Betty Cooper (played by Lili Reinhart), and Veronica Lodge (played by Camila Mendes). The gang combats the darkness and weirdness bubbling beneath Riverdale's wholesome small-town facade. As the town is shaken by the murder of a teenager, Jason Blossom (played by Trevor Stines), later to be revealed that he is killed in cold blood by his own father. Season 2 of *Riverdale* airs on The CW Wednesdays at 7 p.m. CT.



DC's Legends of Tomorrow

The series is a television take on *DC comics' Legends of Tomorrow*. Rogue time-traveler Rip Hunter (played by Arthur Darvill) gathers a team of superheroes and villains, to not just save the world but all of time itself. The team is made up of comic book icons such as Black Canary (played by Caity Lotz), Atom (played by Brandon Routh), Heat Wave (played by Danielle Panabaker), and many more. The team races throughout time to battle an immortal Egyptian demigod, an evil Speedster bent on controlling the world and all of time. Season 3 of *Legends of Tomorrow* airs on The CW network Tuesdays at 8 p.m. CT.



Supergirl

Supergirl is a rare occasion of the immediate characters of the Superman realm, of DC comics, doing well for television adaptation. The series follows the life of Superman's cousin, Kara Zor-El (played by Melissa Benoist), a refugee of the planet Krypton who finds a new home with the Danvers Family. Just like her cousin, Kara possess extraordinary powers that she hides to live a normal life growing up on Earth. Now Kara is all grown up and works as a reporter for CatCo Worldwide Media by day and superhero by night protecting the citizens of National City from threat, all while juggling her relationships with family and friends. Season 3 of *Supergirl* airs on The CW network Mondays 7 p.m. CT.



Arrow

Arrow presents a unique look at the origin of DC comics' Green Arrow on prime-time television. Billionaire playboy, Oliver Queen (played by Stephen Amell) is presumed dead and returns to Starling City after five years of being stranded on the island of Lian Yu. Upon his return, Oliver seems to be the same free-spirited bachelor, but things have changed as he takes on a vigilante persona to right the wrongs of his late father and bring the city back to its former glory. Season 6 of *Arrow* airs on The CW network Thursdays at 8 p.m. CT.

Each of these are a must see, and will make you laugh, cry, and even yell at the TV screen. So make sure you tune in.

Big K.R.I.T
4eva Is A Mighty Long Time

Johari Wiley
Editor-in-Chief



Forever is in fact a mighty long time and it seems like that's how long it has taken Justin Scott, better known as Big K.R.I.T., to get his just due in the rap game. K.R.I.T.'s previous album, *Cadillac*, was an expansive trek through the art of trunk-rattling, a field of play in which he's long established himself as an expert. With that same energy, he has created *4eva Is A Mighty Long Time*, his third studio album with a major label and his latest entry in an exhaustive lineup of projects.

On *4eva*, K.R.I.T. doesn't stray too far from his usual formula, production wise. Ever present is his ear for melody, his ability to flip to samples like a light switch, and most important, his unconditional love for low-end frequencies.

K.R.I.T. provides the album's first banger in the form of the rowdy "Big Bank". Rhyming over a frenetic chop-up of Willie Hutch's "Tell Me Why Our Love Has Turned Cold", he enlists the manpower of fellow veteran, T.I., who piggybacks his energy and informs the listener on who the real "Kings of the South" are.

A running theme throughout K.R.I.T.'s music is his personification of the subwoofer, the axis on which his aesthetic revolves. "Trunk knocking when I drive, my sub came alive/ Transformer in my ride, my sub came alive/...They saying bass died, my sub came alive," he chants on the hook of the album's fourth track, "Subenstein (My Sub IV)". Produced by Mannie Fresh, in reference to the classic story

of *Frankenstein*, K.R.I.T. assumes the role of the mad genius himself; creating a monstrous sound that sets the tone for the remainder of the project's sonic landscape.

On "Get Away", listeners may find themselves checking off the boxes for what makes up the typical K.R.I.T. song, but there's a certain facet he possesses that allows him to take a would be cookie-cutter southern banger into a whole other space. Much of the track's sentimentality is driven by a sample provided via Bettye Crutcher's "Sleepy People", which he then uses to facilitate the songs themes of inspiration and achievement. "Get Away" embodies much K.R.I.T.'s ethos; the juggling of right and wrong, secular and spiritual, and finally, the overcoming of whatever's holding you back. Providing a chorus in vein of Three 6 Mafia's early 2000's outputs, K.R.I.T. repeats "I got to get away from that bullsh-t that they on/ everybody, everybody, get your glow on." He then adds to the monologue in the songs first verse, rapping "Put my faith in God even when it's dark, I won't stop/ Flip them high beams on, hit the gas to the top."

Though songs like "Get Away" and "Subenstein (My Sub IV)" display the best of K.R.I.T.'s efforts, there's a gift and a curse he possesses that has presented itself throughout his career and most evidently on *4eva*. While consistency is a trait sought after by young rappers who are trying find their way beyond early success, K.R.I.T. has been at this rap thing for a while now and knows the ropes. Through his provision of consistently well-received projects, he has gained an impressive following, yet it seems like his support is beginning to plateau. There's a pocket through which K.R.I.T. moves most fluid, but when he steps out of that zone, the results are hit or miss. Fans have come to expect a certain sound from him and he seldom strays from producing that sound.

He steps out of his box on tracks like "Everlasting", which finds him laying down pick-up lines on a girl he likes. Rhyming over an instrumental that brings to mind Prince's "The Ballad of Dorothy Parker", he demonstrates to the listener his unique form of storytelling. On efforts like "Miss Georgia Fornoia" and "1999" is where things go a little flat. On these tracks, K.R.I.T.'s verses are strong but are supported by weak choruses that in turn lead to them both having an awkward song structure. These are just a few hiccups in an otherwise solid album top-to-bottom. In my book, *4eva Is A Mighty Long Time* gets a 7/10.

Kicks to Cop: November 2017

Daric Cottingham
Managing Editor

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



Nike WMNS
Air VaporMax
COLOR
Cargo Khaki/Black
RELEASE DATE
Nov. 16, 2017
PRICE
\$200.00

The popular Nike Air VaporMax gets a tweak with this sneaker release. The laces and Flywire are traded in for an elasticated strap, giving it a sleeker look than the original. The gore 'strap and Flyknit allow this slip-on sneaker to provide foot-hugging security. This woman's sneaker comes in a Cargo Khaki colorway and accent by black midfoot strap and sole, topped off with the classic Nike swoosh on strap and VaporMax branding on the heel.

Adidas EQT
Support ADV
Snakeskin

COLOR
Scarlet/Scarlet-Off White,
Chalk White/Chalk White-Off
White, Core Black/Core Black-
Off White
RELEASE DATE
Nov. 17, 2017
PRICE
\$110.00

The Adidas EQT Support ADV is designed with a knitted mesh upper with snakeskin leather quarter panels around the heel of the sneaker. The sneaker also features integrated webbing tape Three Stripes on the side and soft-molded TPU overlay on the rear. The style is completed with a rubber sole, tonal laces, and an EQT label on the tongue. The sneaker comes in three colorways.



Air Jordan 13
Wheat
COLOR
Elemental Gold/Baroque
Brown-Gum Yellow
RELEASE DATE
Nov. 21, 2017
PRICE
\$190.00

The Air Jordan 13 is coated in a wheat colorway throughout the upper of the sneaker. The sneaker has other great features, the tongue is accented with a tonal Jumpman, a ton midsole, gold upper eyelets, and a gum/black rubber outsole.

Nike Special Field
Air Force 1 Triple
Black
COLOR
Black/Black-Black
RELEASE DATE
Nov. 17, 2017
PRICE
\$110.00

This triple black color way is a must cop. The sneaker mixes the classic Air Force 1 with military influence, featuring a high-rise nylon collar, multi-purpose ankle straps, secret pockets and more.



No Shave November
is here



Photo by Sajdon Britton

Faith Johnson
Lifestyle Editor

There's nothing more appealing than a well groomed man. It shows a sense of purpose and urgency to his very existence. The most notable examinations of a man go from his shoes, to clothes, to hands and most importantly, his face. No shave November is out but the beards ore still in.

Now if you're the type of guy that goes for the classic clean shave by all means enjoy the baby face for as long as you can ride that "people pleasing" wave, but there are others who aim for entering into the element where only some men explore. The more edgy, macho appeal, presenting to us who may only dare to dream of the notorious lifestyle of a beard.

A well groomed beard on a man speaks more about character and choice than what meets the eye. The art of manliness is exercised, the courage is envied and the success is never ending. The best-looking celebrities have tackled the challenge. Everyone from Drake to Jake Gyllenhaal have jumped on board.

A man's man is the title you too can proclaim. Some men build a legacy, others grow one.

The effort it takes to enter this realm of glory isn't an easy road but very much obtainable with these few tips and tricks on how to grow, take care of, and flourish your beard. You too can be the successor of the legacy of the hanging hustler also known as, the beard.

- First and foremost, be patient, a full face won't happen for most like it will for others but indeo your time will come. Embrace your happy bush.
- Match your beard to the shape of your face. After all, it's an extension of you and not it's own entity. Tame the beast before it overtakes your identity.
- Know how, and when, to Trim.
- Just like your hair, wash and shampoo and condition your beard regularly.
- "Love Thy Beard" oil moisture makes for your best friend when it comes to beard interactions other than with yourself. Stay ready so you don't have to get ready. This product is available online and in stores.
- Train Your Beard. Learn the beard. Know the beard. Love the beard.

These are crucial rules for starting and maintaining the perfect beard. Best wishes to you and YOUR well deserved face upgrade!

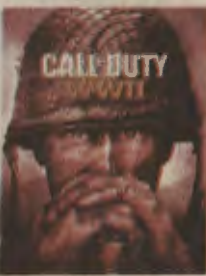
The top 3 games you
need in November

Saidrian Lovings
Panther Contributor

We've all had our share of the best, and the worst, experiences with video games. We go out, stand in extra long lines, just to come home, play for 30 minutes and waste \$45.

Good news, here's all you need to know before you make your next trip to GameStop.

For the inner nerd whose love for games is as deep as the galaxy, for the competitive online headphone wearing trash-talkers of the nation, and even to the many that get a kick out of being scared from animated ghost whispers. Here are the top three games you are going to need for the month of November.



Call of Duty: WWII
• Available on: PS4, Xbox One, and PC
• Release Date: Nov. 3, 2017
• Price: \$59.99

This game is what everyone is ready for. The Call of Duty franchise has really made a name for itself. The first release was in 2003, and after that, history was made.

This year, however, the creators really outdid themselves.

Graphics: amazing. Storyline: phenomenal. It takes place in the time of the World War II. You are a soldier and you see everything that they see.

How cool is that? I am not much of a gamer, but this game is worth my money and my attention. I don't know about you, but this game is a 10/10.



Star Wars Battlefront 2
• Available on: PS4, Xbox One, and PC
• Release Date: Nov. 17, 2017
• Price: \$29.99

Do you have what it takes to be a Jedi? Is your best friend an R2D2? Then you definitely need this game.

This game is obviously a classic and worth the money. Of course the graphics are indeed the best, there is no game better than this.

Nothing much has been said about the storyline but from the game trailer, it looks like you can be anything you choose to be. I suggest you guys get this game, hands down.

Black Mirror

• Available on: PS4, Xbox One, PC
• Release Date: Nov. 28, 2017
• Price: TBA

I love a good scary game. I just love to be scared period, to be honest. If you are anything like me, then this newer version of a timeless classic is for you. Black Mirror will play on your fears, thoughts and emotions.

The style of the game, however, is pretty unclear but from what I read and pieced together, it just might be a point-click type.

The Black Mirror games seems to be in relations to the many titles on Netflix, but the release on the Nov. 28 is totally different.

Get your tissues ready and turn off all the lights because this game is sure to give you nightmares.



(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), Dubem Oneyejebu (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.



She has scored exceptionally high on the MCAT, and tutors the biological sciences at the student library.

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.



Single Graduation Commencement Separates Families



Amira Wynn
Copy Editor

As fall graduation nears, seniors scramble to take graduation pictures, order announcements, and gear up for final exams. With Fall graduation only a month away, the stress of trying to make sure everything is set in place is already high without other wrenches being thrown in.

On Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, the commencement committee solidified its decision to create a single graduation ceremony for all Fall graduates. This decision came after previous graduates complained about the separate ceremonies that kept fellow students from graduating together.

Committee co-chair Carol Campbell said: "Reviving the single ceremony tradition allows students to graduate with their peers. These students had built a camaraderie that

started when they arrived together on "the hill" years ago. Splitting the ceremonies did not allow for them to be together and cheer one another on as they completed their scholastic journeys together."

While students have asked to graduate with their peers, what they didn't expect is to have to pick which of their family members could attend.

Thanks to the single commencement ceremony, graduates will only be given 10 tickets, 5 of which will grant entrance into the William "Billy" Nicks Building, also known as the "baby dome", and the remaining 5 to an "alternate viewing site."

Now I don't know about other seniors, but as a graduating senior myself I find this appalling. My family is not considered big, but to choose between my parents, siblings, and grandparents on who will get to physically see me walk across the stage is horrible to ask of anyone. It's like telling which members of your family they are

your "top 5."

Even after numerous complaints and a petition, the university is standing behind its decision. However, I don't think they really took into consideration of how this would affect students. For some, they will be the first graduates of their family; an event that should be celebrated by all family members. For others, like myself, it gives family members who missed a high school graduation an opportunity to watch their student cross the stage.

This event is a unique one, as many students either opt out of a college education or it may be the only college degree they earn. To make students decide which family members get to attend this event during such a stressful time is something that the university never considered.

They made a ceremony that they felt would be "time efficient," suggesting that they just want to get the ceremony over with, rather than allow students to enjoy such a significant time

with their families.

Instead of limiting students to five "viewing" family members, maybe they should just move the location. We have a brand new, state of the art football stadium that can seat thousands of people. Why not just move the ceremony from the baby dome to the football stadium to keep all family members together. The ceremony is set in December, but according to an extended weather forecast, the ceremony will be a warm 70 degrees. So why not move it outside?

With the combination of so many colleges and graduates, it's only logical to have the ceremony outside.

The university is more focused on a few students concerns of not graduating with their friends and ensuring ceremonies are done in a timely manner than the ceremony itself.

Many graduates have expressed their disdain with the final decision and have unwittingly started preparing to invite their top 10 family members.

For me, the hardest decision will not be deciding who will get the 10 tickets, as mentioned above my family is not that big, it will be deciding who gets to actually see me walk across the stage. Will it be my parents and siblings who have been with me every step of the way of my schooling, will it be my aunts and uncles who will fly thousands of miles to get here, or will it be my grandparents who unfortunately had to miss my high school graduation due to a time conflict.

Regardless of the decision, someone will feel left out and feelings will be hurt. Having to tell the unlucky five that they have to go to an alternate viewing site will not be a pleasant conversation that I expect to have.

Although the fall 2017 graduates can't do anything about it now that graduation is only a mere month away, spring and future graduates should demand for a change. Demand from the university that more tickets, an alternate ceremony site, or separate ceremonies should be returned. You may only be students, but without you, a university cannot be a university. Speak out for this semester's seniors because no one wants to have to tell their family that they can't come to their graduation.

Have We Forgotten Who The Victim is?

Saidrian Lovings
Panther Contributor



At times like these, the word rape has been put on the back burner like left over rice. Some tend to forget the difference between the meaning of the words consensual and nonconsensual.

Why as women, are we viewed as objects? Men can be played as toys, too.

They tell us that we brought it upon ourselves, we wanted it to happen to us. Men always view women as open invitation. A "it's just one night" way of trying to get on our good side. A lawyer in Egypt, Nabih al-Wahsh, has recently sparked controversy, stating that women who wear revealing clothes, like ripped jeans, are asking to be raped.

First of all, if a woman wears ripped jeans, let her wear ripped jeans. A woman can wear what she wants, rips included.

For men, it's no different. Actor Terry Crews admitted to being sexually violated by a Hollywood executive, in front of his wife. As of now, Fox News has reported WME agent Adam Venit as Crew's alleged abuser.

Because media plays such a huge role in rape cases, they have conditioned us to think that half of the time women were never raped from the beginning and men can't possibly be a rape victim. Men aren't known for being raped, yet when they are, it's supposedly his fault. It's a woman. Why didn't you just move her off, or back away? Why did you let her continue?

Men and women are not made to be played as toys that belong on the shelves.

You know what I think? I think the word rape, has no skin color, language, and most importantly, gender. Anyone has the potential to play that dangerous game, never forget that. Men don't speak upon it because of sheer embarrassment. We have been told that the man is prone to rape the woman, not the other way around.

A woman can be violated even if she is covered from head to toe and even if her pants are ripped and her skin is showing.

Men and women can be both the predator and the victim; Don't let media "insights" skew your judgement. There is a reason why there is a cry from both sexes; This sexist world's narrow-minded ways have introduced the man as the rapist and the woman as the victim, and that's that. But times have changed and so should this world.

What Grinds Your Gears???



Keaira Tubbs, 20
Junior
"When people call me fake and all I try to do is be nice to others"



Andre Cashmere, 23
Senior
"Fake people..."



Kyasia Fields, 22
Senior
"What grinds my gears is Sodexo as a whole, but more specifically on Mondays when they have those dry [expletive] chicken strips and you need water just to [eat them]."



Mark Robinson, 22
Senior
"When a class tries to be successful together but then other students snitch to the teacher and they make the class harder."



Larry Allen, 20
Junior
"What grinds my gears is that a lot of people on social media platforms like to give the perception that they're putting out positivity, but sometimes they add more negativity to the atmosphere that we're in."



La'Kia Coleman, 24
Senior
"What grinds my gears is when you're trying to communicate with somebody and they're mad and they don't let you know they're mad. They expect you to get inside their head and read their mind, I hate that."



Daijah Peterson, 21
Senior
"What grinds my gears is when you smile at somebody and they look at you like you're crazy, especially some of these women on campus. I'm like, 'y'all really ain't got to be rude like that!' So yea, there you go."



Ravyn Gilbert, 21
Junior
"Honestly, everything. I'm not even gonna lie. But more specifically, I think the attendance thing and failing the students because of attendance when we pay for classes is crap."

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

1. Why doesn't the WiFi work?!
2. What's up with some more housing?
3. When will we get better parking?
4. Why are the Kappas and Alphas having the same events around the same time?
5. Who is that girl whose wig fell off during Hop Like an Alpha?
6. So when are the Ques getting off suspension?
7. Why haven't the Delta's had any events?
8. Why don't the Kappa's show up to their own parties?
9. When's the Que's next BBQ?
10. Why the AKAs was lowkey duck walking at the step show?
11. So is there such thing as Greek unity?
12. Why are the Greeks always strolling at parties?
13. Can they not get twerked on like everybody else?
14. What took PV so long to finally have a SUPER lit homecoming?
15. Why these PAL's messing with the freshmen?
16. Did anybody else see the freshmen full on streaking by the fountain?
17. Who else ran out of Panther Bucks already?
18. Was The Zone really worth the wait?
19. How can we get rid of Sodexo?
20. Whose dumb idea was it to start ticketing people in front of the library?

#PVHC17: How Prairie View set it out like no other (Recap)

Stevee Rodgers
Panther Contributor

For the Prairie View student, setting your Homecoming out is a given; the homage we pay, the spirit that we wear, and the memories we create at this annual celebration have become the stuff of legend. Each year the school's student body grows with new faces, networks, and technology, which in turn allows for Homecoming to leave an increasingly lasting impression upon the school's legacy.

In addition, Homecoming shows the unique generation gaps between alumni and the undergraduates and how we all go about celebrating it differently.

Throughout the time that I have attended Prairie View, Homecoming has always been the highlight of the year. Through the releasing of student anxiety and overcoming the obstacles we tackle on a day to day basis, Homecoming is our stress ball.

Therefore, whether you're attending all the on campus events or taking shots at functions and waking up the next morning in a room that's not yours, Homecoming is a time for making unforgettable memories. Luckily the only embarrassment felt, lies between the walls that witnessed the resulting sober confusion. Unfortunately, with all of today's new technology, this luck does not always fall into the lap of the Homecoming partygoer.

A few years back, Prairie View's Homecoming experienced an eye opener with the infamous Pond Girl incident. Falling into the trend of "going viral", Pond Girl had set her Homecoming out like no other. Yet, she did not know, or did not care, that her living in the moment was going to be recorded and cause a controversy far beyond her control.

In result, her education at Prairie View A&M came to an end shortly after.

On a brighter note, Homecoming oftentimes acts as its own icebreaker, where Panthers, young and old, get to know one another and show their common love for Prairie View A&M. It is not uncommon for alumni to be the ones, who in fact, show the younger generation how to set their Homecoming out to its fullest extent. The connections that are made, mixed in with good food, drinks and music, cause the pride surrounding Homecoming to thicken.

Thanks, in part, to social media, technology has played an important role in bringing awareness to this year's festivities. Prairie View's Homecoming Instagram account, PVHC17, informed followers of all the events and uploaded the turnout for those who were not in attendance. For instance, drones flew over the crowd at the Saturday night tailgate and recorded PV setting their Homecoming out to Fast Life Yungstaz Swag Surfin'. The video eventually went viral on twitter and various other social media platforms..



Homecoming is here to create memories while celebrating tradition, culture, and new beginnings. It is important to turn-up responsibly, and being overly intoxicated while caught on camera will raise an eyebrow or two. During Homecoming celebrations it's important to remember that upholding your own and your university's reputation is key. Therefore, maintain the lock so that in the end you can hold the degree.



Photos by Devyn Allen

Students fail to turn tide in Waller County Jail Bond election

Jessica Hayden
Panther Contributor

The decision on whether or not to build a proposed jail in Waller County rested in the hands of Prairie View A&M students and the neighboring communities that will be affected by its construction.

Before Nov. 7, 2017, election day, various organizations on campus rallied with fliers, social media blasts and word of mouth to spread awareness for the Jail Bond voting.

It is very important to stay involved with what is happening in the county's activities and Prairie View A&M took the first steps to voicing their opinion. However, when it came down to the number of people who voted against the bond versus the people who voted for the bond, the outcome was disproportionate.

Only about 2,400 people participated in early and election day voting. 62 percent of votes were in favor of the \$39.5 million bond. In result, the jail will receive funding to be built.

This win comes mostly from early and absentee voters.

This election year, students were divided by precinct. Several students were able to vote on campus based on their designated precinct. While others had to make arrangements to vote

at City Hall. Additionally, the limited availability of transportation that was set to take students to and from Prairie View's city hall provided a challenge for some, but a lucky few were able to go cast their vote.

Also, the disproportionality of the voting possibly occurred because many people felt that their vote wouldn't mean anything. However, in the past, we've seen how close polls can be and that everyone's voice matters.

According to Denise Mattox, from the Waller County Democratic Club, Prairie View A&M University had the highest number of ballots cast on election day.

"To me, this indicates that having the PVAMU campus early voting polling place stripped from the campus really suppressed the student vote. To my present and historical understanding, this was and remains cheating," said Mattox.

That is why the polls' outcome was not what people expected, as they casted their votes for something that belittles the African American community. For instance, Democrat Waller County judge candidate Sylvia Cedillo has attempted to win the votes of Prairie View students. When asked about her thoughts on the Waller County Jail Bond, she thought it would create



great job opportunities.

Cedillo's thoughts on the bond shows how some candidates in Waller County do not understand the message they're putting out into the community. Building a jail in Hempstead near a university creates a literal school-to-prison pipeline. African Americans

in this area are more likely to fill this jail than their white-counterparts. Again, making residents question how the bond could've gotten voted for in the first place.

Certain districts in the county voted more than others in the community. Precinct 309 had the highest

amount of votes, which was 271 votes. Coincidentally, this happens to be the precinct from which students on campus casted their ballots. Having this kind of turnout by students alone has shown the community that they care about what happens here in Waller County.