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Prairie View A&M University

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# THE PANTHER

"Something inside so strong..."

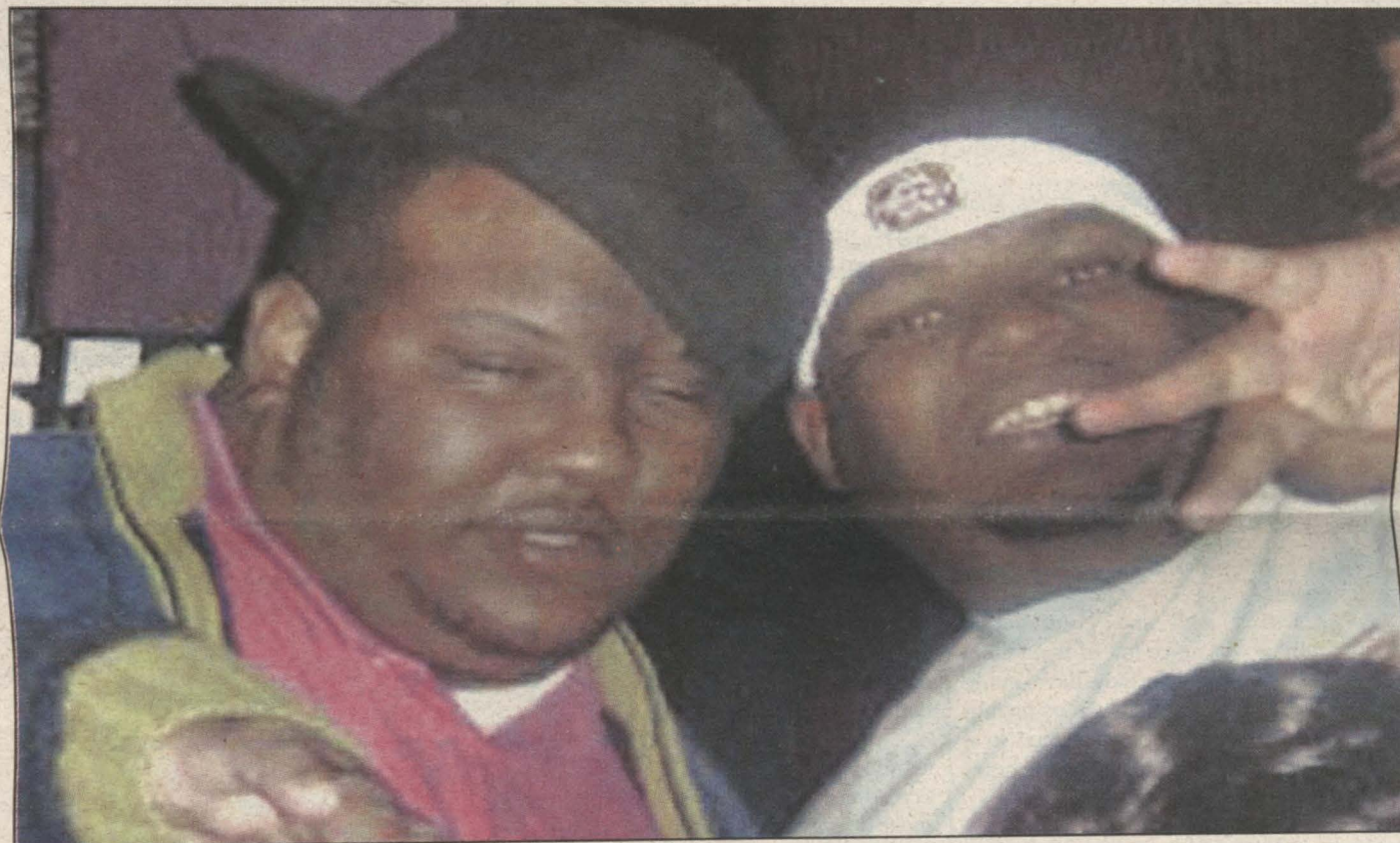


Program ushers in Black History Month, page 3

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

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## Two Panthers killed in crash



By DeTorsha Brunson  
Panther Staff

Two Prairie View A&M University students, Antwan McKinney from Miami, Fla., and Lamond Foster from Wichita Falls, Texas, were killed in an automobile accident on Highway 290 in the early hours of Monday, Feb. 6.

McKinney, 24, a graduate student and assistant track coach, and Foster, 22, a senior political science major, also known as Trinidad to fellow students, were traveling in a Chevrolet Impala which was involved in a head-on collision with a Dodge vehicle driven by an unidentified woman. The woman, the only occupant of the other vehicle, also died in the accident.

The cause of the accident is being investigated.

Meanwhile, the university is scheduled to hold a memorial service in honor of McKinney and Foster on Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Memorial Student Center Auditorium.

Friends till the end: Foster and McKinney share a happy moment. Both played for the Panther football team.

## Freshman shot on campus

By LaCheryl E. Whitlow  
Panther Staff

Chris Hill, a 19-year-old freshman from Austin, Texas, was shot on the right cheek on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

According to university sources, Hill, a freshman residing in University College building 38, was playing a video game with three other male students when one of the young men allegedly pulled out a small handgun and accidentally fired a shot.

Hill reportedly called the police after the incident and walked down two flights of stairs to an ambulance.

The names of the three other males have been withheld. However, the student whose room the gun was found in was evicted, the student that brought

the gun on campus was expelled and is currently facing charges of bringing a prohibited weapon onto campus, while the student who accidentally opened fire on Hill is being charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Director of University Relations Tyra M. Metoyer says, "This unfortunate incident further supports why the university adheres to its zero tolerance policy concerning all forms of inappropriate behavior. President Wright and the entire university community are committed to educating our students concerning the consequences of bad choices and the negative impact those choices will have on their future."

As of Tuesday, Feb. 7, Hill was reportedly undergoing treatment at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bryan, Texas.



Chris Hill



## In the news...

### Pasadena woman hit with \$10 million judgment

AUSTIN (AP) — A Pasadena woman has been ordered to pay nearly \$10 million in fines and restitution for charging for unauthorized legal advice and illegally preparing immigration documents, state Attorney General Greg Abbott said Monday.

Abbott's office sued Yolanda Perez in February 2005, accusing her of violating the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. A Harris County judge ordered Perez to pay the fines and restitution.

According to Abbott's office, she falsely told clients she was a former employee of the then-Immigration and Naturalization Service and falsely represented herself as an attorney.

Perez operated under several names, including New Anointing/Nueva Union, Perez Immigration and Tax Service, and Greater Houston Family Outreach. She charged initial fees of \$300-\$400 per person for help with immigration visas, permanent residency, and work or travel permits for themselves or their relatives.

Victims later found they were subject to removal from the United States due to errors in the submission of the forms or because they were ineligible for permanent residence. Many also lost hundreds of dollars in immigration filing fees, Abbott's office said.

### Government investigates fires in Dodge Durango SUVs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is investigating reports of fires starting underneath the driver's seat of some models of the Dodge Durango sport utility vehicle, according to documents released Monday.

The inquiry involves nearly 16,000 Durango SUVs from the 2001-2003 model years. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it had received complaints of five vehicle fires starting underneath the driver's seat.

NHTSA said three of the fires happened while the vehicle was parked with the ignition switch off. The vehicles are not equipped with power driver seat adjustments.

There were no injuries associated with the reported fires.

DaimlerChrysler AG spokesman Max Gates said the automaker was in the initial stages of its inquiry and was working with the agency on the case.

### FEMA expects few problems with deadline for hotel assistance

ATLANTA (AP) — FEMA officials sounded confident there would not be huge numbers of hurricane evacuees in Georgia becoming homeless on Tuesday, the deadline for those who did not register for additional hotel assistance.

About 1,500 families in the state did not seek additional hotel assistance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said. People in another 1,683 rooms did get authorization to remain in hotels beyond Tuesday's deadline.

But FEMA officials stress that those who missed the deadline for additional hotel assistance chose not to call and are not expected to end up on the streets.

"The research that we've conducted shows that we don't expect large throngs of folks to suddenly find themselves in a desperate situation," FEMA spokeswoman Nicol Andrews said.

Libby Turner, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hurricane transitional housing unit, said Monday that "significant progress" has been made in helping evacuees establish long term housing.

Turner said she expects that many families will move out of their hotel rooms Tuesday because they have made other living arrangements, such as having found an apartment or being placed in a trailer. Others will start paying for the hotel rooms themselves, she said.

Turner also said that some of those who will be losing hotel assistance were probably people who had been abusing the program.

### Rapper helps Chicago mark Black HIV Awareness Day

(AP) CHICAGO Rap star Twista is encouraging his young fans to take care of themselves and use condoms.

Twista headlined an HIV awareness event today that included performances, HIV/AIDS testing and educational sessions at Chicago's Roosevelt University.

The event was part of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day. The day of programs around the country was launched six years ago to address the disproportionately high rates of HIV in the black community.

Blacks make up 15 percent of Illinois' population but more than half of the reported cases of HIV.

Today's performances were sponsored by Governor Rod Blagojevich's BASUAH program. BASUAH stands for Brothers and Sisters United Against HIV/AIDS.

## Four U.S. presidents join mourners at King's funeral

By Errin Haines  
Associated Press

LITHONIA, Ga. — Four U.S. presidents joined more than 10,000 mourners Tuesday in saying goodbye to Coretta Scott King, praised by President Bush as "one of the most admired Americans of our time."

"I've come today to offer the sympathy of our entire nation at the passing of a woman who worked to make our nation whole," President Bush told King's four children and the crowd that filled New Birth Missionary Baptist Church for the funeral of the widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Coretta Scott King not only secured her husband's legacy, she built her own," Bush said. "Having loved a leader, she became a leader, and when she spoke, Americans listened closely."

Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin stressed that King spoke out, not just against racism, but about "the senselessness of war and the solutions for poverty."

"She sang for liberation, she sang for those who had no earthly reason to sing a song," with a voice that was heard "from the tintop roofs of Soweto to the bomb shelters of Baghdad," Franklin said.

Former President Carter echoed that theme of a peaceful struggle for justice in a service that grew increasingly political as other leaders questioned what the Bush administration was doing to continue the Kings' dream.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, who co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Martin Luther King Jr., spoke directly to the current administration's foreign and domestic policies.

"Our marvelous presidents and governors come to mourn and praise ... but in the morning will words become deeds that meet need?" Lowery asked.

"For war, billions more, but no more for the poor," he said, in a take-off of a lyric from Stevie Wonder's song "A Time to Love," which drew a roaring standing ovation. The comments drew head shakes from Bush and his father as they sat behind the pulpit.

Coretta Scott King, who carried on her husband's dream of equality for nearly 40 years after his death, died Jan. 30 at the age of 78 after battling ovarian cancer and the effects of a stroke.

The Kings' youngest child, Bernice, a minister at the megachurch, was to give the eulogy. She was 5 when her father was assassinated in 1968 and is perhaps best remembered for the photographs of her lying in her black-veiled mother's lap during her father's funeral.

Former Presidents Clinton and Bush, poet Maya Angelou and the Kings' children were also among the more than three dozen speakers during the funeral.

"I don't want us to forget that there's a woman in there, not a symbol," Clinton said, standing behind King's flower-covered casket. "A real woman who lived and breathed and

## State & Nation

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got angry and got hurt and had dreams and disappointments."

Angelou spoke of King as a sister with whom she shared her pain and laughter.

"Those of us who have gathered here, ... we owe something from this minute on, so this gathering is not just another footnote on the pages of history," Angelou said.

"I mean to say I want to see a better world. I mean to say I want to see some peace somewhere," she said to roaring applause.

Outside the suburban church Tuesday morning, the lines to get into the funeral and to attend the final viewing of King's body started forming before 3 a.m.

"There's one word to describe going to go see Coretta historic. It's good to finally see her at peace," said Robert Jackson, a 34-year-old financial consultant from Atlanta whose 10-year-old daughter, Ebony, persuaded him to take her to the church.

More than 160,000 mourners had waited in long lines to pay their respects at public viewings since King's body was returned to Georgia on Monday at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where her husband preached in the 1960s, at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church on Tuesday morning, and during the weekend at the Georgia Capitol, where King became the first woman and the first black person to lie in honor there.

"She made many great sacrifices," said Sean Washington, 38, who drove from Tampa, Fla., with his wife and children from a disability center, to attend King's funeral. "To be in her presence once more is something that I would definitely cherish, no matter what."

The funeral followed a day of tributes at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Gladys Knight performed and television talk-show host Oprah Winfrey, former Atlanta mayor and King lieutenant Andrew Young and others shared their memories of King.

"For me, she embodied royalty. She was the queen. ... You knew she was a force," Winfrey told an audience of 1,700 at the musical celebration in King's honor.

"She leaves us all a better America than the America of her childhood," Winfrey said.

At a service Monday night, the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton galvanized the crowd with fiery speeches that blasted the government and public figures for trying to make the King legacy their own while doing nothing for world peace or poor black Americans.

"We can't let them take her from us and reduce her to their trophy and not our freedom fighter," Jackson said.

After the funeral, King's body will be placed in a crypt near her husband's tomb at the King Center, which she built to promote his memory.

Between the tombs is the eternal flame that was placed there years ago in Martin Luther King Jr.'s honor. On the crypt, inscribed in black, is the Bible passage First Corinthians 13:13, which reads: "And now abide Faith, Hope, Love, These Three; but the greatest of these is Love."

## CAMPUS

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## You ought to be in pictures!

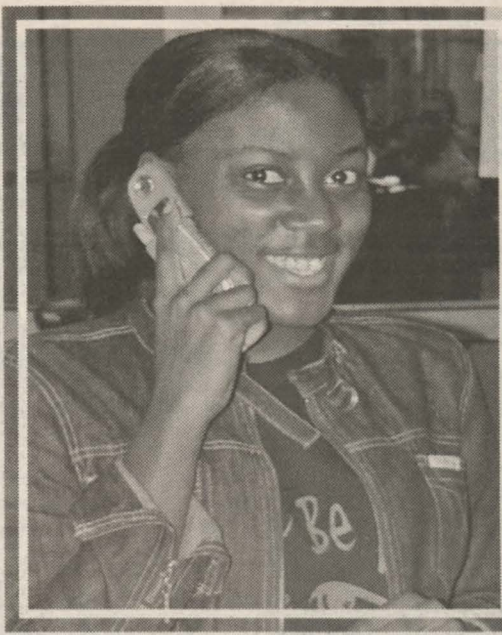


Photo by Evan White

## Program ushers in Black History Month

By Alexis Benton  
Panther Staff

The first of many programs celebrating Black History Month took place on Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the MSC auditorium. The program themed "A Celebration of Black Heritage, History and Commitment," was opened by communications major Phillip Wade and sponsored by the Black History Month Committee and the Office of Special Programs.

First recognizing black history in 1926, initially as "Negro History Week" then later as Black History Month, the students, and faculty at Prairie View A&M University began the program with a drum call and flag display representing the diverse cultures that make up the student population. Jamaica, Brazil, and Liberia were just some of the flags displayed, each represented by a person from that country.

The invocation was given by Courtney Smith, followed by the welcome by Endira Hawkins. An a cappella musical selection was performed by music majors Michael Dixon and Keisha Whittaker, preceded by the introduction of the speaker by governmental relations officer Frank Jackson.

Dr. George C. Wright, 7th president of Prairie View A&M University, a noted scholar and historian with expertise in African American history, spoke to students about the University's history and the

importance of celebrating ours. Other topics Wright covered included his advocacy for diversity, and the remembrance of those before us who helped in the advancement of freedom and civil rights for minorities. "While desiring to be recognized as people of color, blacks have desired to be also accepted as Americans," Wright said during the speech. There was a moment of silence for the death of Coretta Scott

King, who passed away recently at the age of 78.

The program ended with a chorus from the student body and faculty in attendance, singing the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Many students felt that the program gave a very uplifting message as the celebra-

tion of Black History Month began. "I really enjoyed it, it's nice to see students come out to celebrate something so essential that we seem to be forgetting about at other times," said Gabrielle Howard, a junior psychology major. The next event to be held will be a guest lecture featuring Dr. James Conyers on the topic, "What Would Malcolm X Say: The 21st Century Plight of African Americans."



Photo by Marques Hodge-Allen

Mother Africa: Ann Sadiku holds flag to represent an African country.

THE  
PANTHER

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# Ministers' Conference returns to PV for its 48th consecutive year

By DeTorsha Brunson  
Panther Staff

The 48th Annual Ministers' Conference, sponsored by the Johnson-Phillips All Faith Chapel, opened Tuesday in the MSC Auditorium to raise scholarship money for the students of Prairie View A&M University.

The theme for this year's conference is, "The Priest, Prophet, and Preacher: Proclaiming the Prophetic Word in these Perilous Times."

The ministers who gathered at this year's conference had several objectives, including to develop an ecumenical leadership community, to cultivate and prepare individuals in the field of ministry, to engage participation in the sociological life of the community, and to enhance Christian leadership within our churches.

Several Outstanding Leadership Awards were presented to the ministers in attendance.

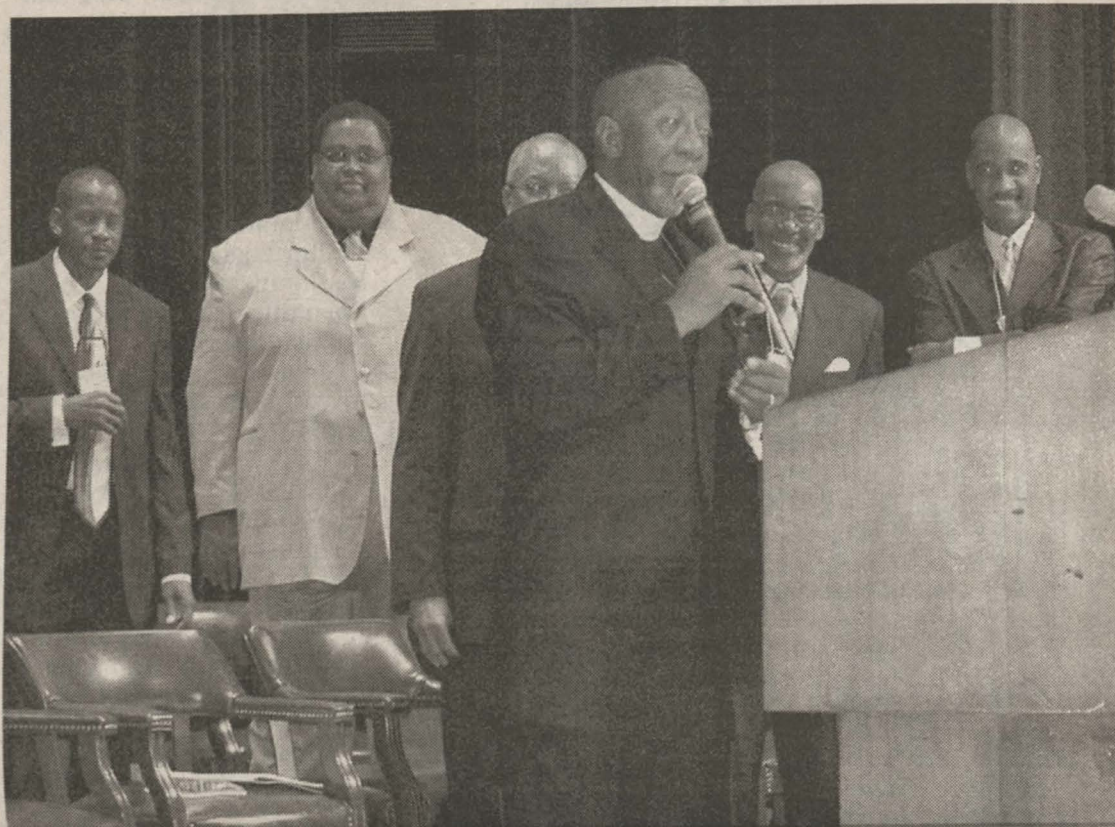
Charles H. Lewter IV, dean of the Chapel said,

"This is the 48th year for this conference and today we had over 250 people in attendance. The main goal is to continue to build a fellowship with different denominations and in doing so, coming together to raise money for scholarships. I enjoy the minister's conference every year because it is my way of giving students the opportunity to fulfill their educational dreams."

"The purpose of this conference is to enrich today's leaders for the present and future times, and to also strengthen the communities and families and impact the world through the work of the church," said senior marketing major Russell Hutchison.

Many of the ministers who gather at this conference feel that it is a very enlightening experience.

"I come to this conference every year to help these young people raise finances to support the scholarship fund, but in the process of coming to share resources, I am enriched, enlightened, and blessed all at the same time," said Reverend Lee Jones of the St. Paul Baptist Church in Brookshire.



Photos by Evan White

**Multiple Blessings:** Ministers present at the conference attend several lectures pertaining to the objectives of the conference. There are also vocal selections from students and student choirs, as well as an award ceremony. Money raised by the conference goes toward scholarships.

## Retired librarian Gazella White Booth

By Nikisha Martin  
Panther Staff

Mrs. Gazella White Booth passed at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Tomball Regional Hospital. She was laid to rest at Prairie View Cemetery on Saturday, Jan. 28.

Booth was the oldest of five children born to Professor Giles and Lovie Greer White of Patroom Community. She was a dedicated member of the St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Prairie View, Texas, where she served as a faithful member of the Altar Guild Team 3 and Episcopal Church Women's sponsor to the Episcopal Young Christians. She was also a devoted member of

other various organizations including Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., American Library Association, Waller County Democratic Club, Heroines of Jericho, and the Houston branch of the NAACP.

She was educated in the public schools of Shelby County and graduated from C.H. Daniels High School in Center, Texas. After high school, she didn't stop. She attended Texas College in Tyler where she received her bachelor's, and later her master's degree from Prairie View A&M University. Booth started her career as a teacher at the Neuville Choice Elementary School of Shelby County and served as principal and library organizer at Shady Grove Elementary in Marshall, Texas. She started

her career at Prairie View A&M University in 1957, where she held the position of reference librarian until she retired after 26 years in 1983.

"She was well known on campus and was always there with a smile and helping hand," head librarian Juanitia Walker said. After retirement, she continued to volunteer her services to many programs at the university, including a member of the CAST (Committee to Assist Students in Theater) and the Century II Book review.

Booth will always be remembered as a loving, caring, God-fearing, Prairie View star who will be forever missed.

# Chatha receives Regents Professor award

By Jameka Merriweather  
Panther Staff

Dr. Diljit K. Chatha, professor of English, was honored with the highest award in the Texas A & M University System, the Regents Professor award, on Thursday, Jan. 26.

In 1996, the Board of Regents established the Regents Professor award to recognize and honor faculty members who have made exemplary contributions to their university or agency, and to the people of Texas.

Chatha was the only professor honored from Prairie View this year. She is elated to receive the award, but she also feels it is a professional recognition of her and the university. "I'm sure there will be more professors to follow. Prairie View is a great institution to work for and it is in the hands of a caring administration." She is especially optimistic for the direction Prairie View is headed under Dr. Wright and Provost Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith. "They are open-minded, positive, and encouraging individuals," she said.

Nominees for the Regents

Professor award must be full-time faculty members who have held the rank of professor or equivalent in the Texas A & M system for at least five years. They must have produced a distinguished record of teaching, research, and other scholarly activities.

Chatha is no stranger to productivity. She has taught in universities in India and the United States, published scholarly articles, and presented her work at professional conferences. Although a very high honor, the Regents Professor award is one of several prestigious honors for Chatha. Her awards include Prairie View Teacher of the Year (1996), the Cornelia Varner Award for Academic Excellence from Texas Woman's University (1980), and an award for the first rank of graduates at Jodhpur University in India (1963).

However, through all of her awards and triumphs, Chatha remains dedicated to the students. "My number one commitment is to the students. My philosophy is not to penalize them intensively for what I call 'accidents of learning.' My attitude is more towards helping them find moments when they can enjoy 'leaps of learning.'" Furthermore, she

recognizes the commitment and the appreciation from the students. "I feel that is my gift [dedication to the students]. I see tremendous commitment on their part. From the very beginning, my students have appreciated me because I have a genuine interest in teaching."

Thus, she has been a role model for many of her students. She has students who have earned Ph.D. and master's degrees, and have become successful teachers all over Texas and beyond. With a proud smile, she says, "I am especially proud that I'm working at an HBCU institution. I am happy to be a part of the team that helps Prairie View produce productive people."

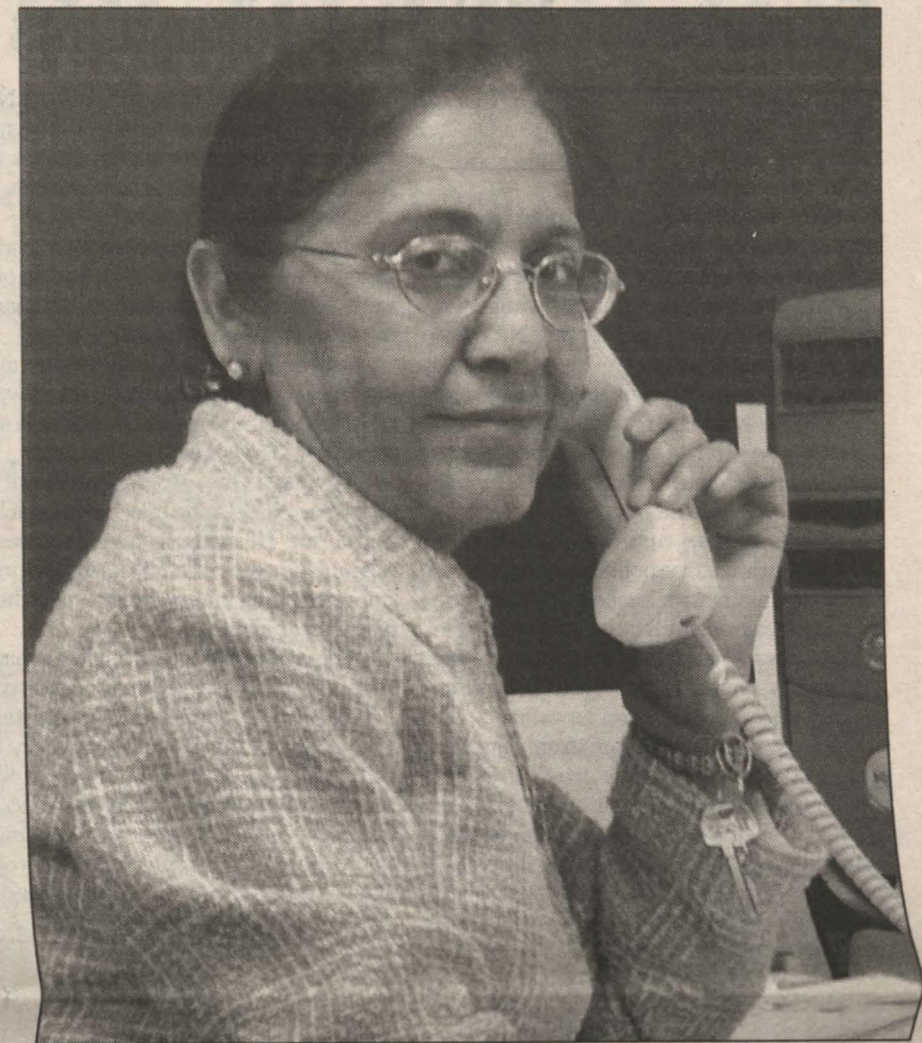
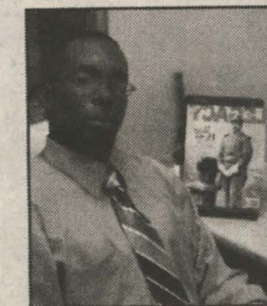


Photo by Evan White

**Committed to excellence:** Dr. Chatha was the only Prairie View professor to earn the highest honor given to faculty by the Texas A&M University System.

## SGA speaks out



SGA President Oludayo Olusanya

Greeting Panthers,

This weekend we lost two of our fellow Panthers tragically in an automobile accident. Prayers go out to the friends and family of the deceased, may God comfort them in their time of need. Although we have lost our fellow Panthers we must not forget our duties to our education, many dates are approaching quickly. Be on the lookout for Black History Month programs sponsored by the Black History Month Committee. Stop by the SGA office for a calendar of events. Financial Aid Awareness Week is February 13-17, 2006, so those of you with financial aid questions, now the time to ask. There will be various sessions on select topics such as FASFA, loans, the verification process, and many more. See the Financial Aid department for more information. The student park, equipped with new basketball and volleyball courts, should be completed soon, so look out for the opening date. As always, your questions, comments, and concerns are always welcomed at sga@pvamu.edu or 936 857 2220.

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EOE



**An angel over Prairie View:** Former campus librarian Gazella White Booth passed Wednesday, Jan 25.



## Unrest over Muhammad cartoons worsens in Afghanistan; three killed

By Daniel Cooney  
Associated Press

KABUL (AP) - International peacekeepers clashed Tuesday with Afghans protesting in a remote northern city against caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, leaving three demonstrators dead and forcing NATO to send in more troops.

Senior Afghan officials said al-Qaida and the Taliban could be exploiting anger over the cartoons to incite violence, which spread to at least six cities in a second day of bloody unrest in Afghanistan.

Demonstrations rumbled on around the Muslim world and the political repercussions deepened, with Iran suspending all trade and economic ties with Denmark, where the drawings were first published in September. Denmark's prime minister called the protests a global crisis and appealed for calm.

In a new turn, a prominent Iranian newspaper, Hamshahri, invited artists to enter a Holocaust cartoon competition, saying it wanted to see if freedom of expression - the banner under which many western publications reprinted the prophet drawings - also applied to Holocaust images.

The drawings - including one depicting the prophet wearing a turban shaped as a bomb - have touched a raw nerve. Islam is interpreted to forbid any illustrations of the prophet for fear they could lead to idolatry. Media outlets say they have reprinted them sometimes to illustrate stories about the controversy but also, in some cases, to support the principle of free speech.

Violence has escalated sharply in Afghanistan this week, where seven people have died in the past two days. Protests, sometimes involving armed men, have been directed at a slew of foreign and Afghan government targets - fuelling suspicions that there's more to the unrest than offence to religious sensitivities.

"It's an incredibly emotive issue. This is something that really upset Afghans," said Joanna Nathan, senior Afghanistan analyst at the International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based research institute. "But it is also being used to agitate and motivate the crowds by those against the government and foreign forces being here."

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, the leader of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the European Union's foreign policy chief condemned the violence and appealed for calm.

"Aggression against life and property can only damage the image of a peaceful Islam," said a statement released Tuesday by Annan, the EU's Javier Solana and Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu of the OIC.

"These events make the need for renewed dialogue, among and between communities of different faiths and authorities of different countries, all the more urgent," it said. "We call on them to appeal for restraint and calm, in the spirit of friendship and mutual respect."

On Tuesday, protesters armed with as-

sault rifles and grenades attacked the NATO base in the remote northern city of Maymana, which is manned by peacekeepers from Norway, Finland, Latvia and Sweden, local officials said.

Three protesters were shot to death by Afghan and Norwegian forces and 22 others were wounded, said Sayed Aslam Ziaratia, the provincial deputy police chief.

NATO said it only fired live ammunition into the air as a warning. Five Norwegian peacekeepers were injured and were in stable condition, NATO said.

Provincial Gov. Mohammed Latif said he suspected al-Qaida may have had a hand in the riot. He said two men from eastern Afghanistan were arrested during the protest and were being interrogated to see whether they were militants.

"The violence today looked like a massive uprising. It was very unusual," Latif said.

The previous day, about 2,000 protesters tried to storm the main U.S. military base in Afghanistan, at Bagram, north of Kabul - the hub of the operations by about 20,000 American forces that have been fighting for four years against militant supporters of the former Taliban regime ousted in late 2001.

Police shot dead two protesters. A top local official claimed al-Qaida and Taliban militants had incited the crowd.

Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak said that was possible, but he stressed that the government had no evidence.

"Once these crowds get together, they often get out of control, here and in other countries," he said. "But if this goes on, we're going to have to take a closer look to see if there is more behind it."

The unrest in Maymana forced NATO to send 150 British troops to help secure the besieged base, while two American A-10 attack aircraft were also flown to the city. The UN evacuated nonessential staff.

In Washington, U.S. President George W. Bush called Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen to express his "solidarity and support." Muslim crowds have attacked Danish diplomatic buildings in various countries - and on Tuesday, Danes were advised to leave Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country.

In Copenhagen, Fogh Rasmussen appealed for calm, but showed no sign of diverting from his government's stance that it can't apologize for actions taken by an independent newspaper, as demanded by governments in several Muslim countries.

Tuesday saw the biggest protest yet in Pakistan, where 5,000 people chanted, "Hang the man who insulted the prophet," and burned effigies of one cartoonist and Fogh Rasmussen. The rally, sponsored by a hardline Islamic provincial government in the country's northwest, passed off peacefully.

Thousands of Egyptians and Jordanians also demonstrated peacefully, calling for a boycott of Danish products and the cutting of ties with Copenhagen including. About 10,000 people, mostly students, joined demonstrations at universities in Cairo.



Photo courtesy AP

**Taking a stand:** Afghani protesters shout slogans outside the Danish embassy during a demonstration in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Feb. 7. Rioters clashed with police and NATO peacekeepers while demonstrating against the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

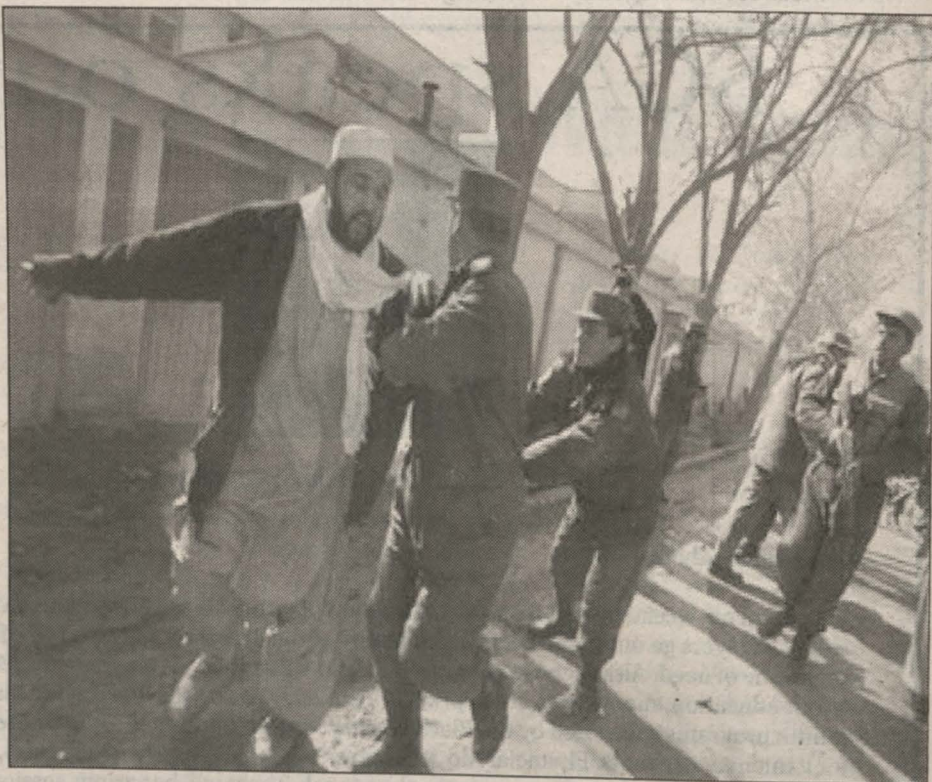


Photo courtesy AP

**Caught up:** Afghan police officers detain Afghan protester outside the Danish embassy.

## Viewpoints

EDITED BY NYEKA MEKA NYEKA@PANTHER.EDU

# I'm not returning to Dillard

By Ashley R. Harris  
Black College Wire

I am not going back to Dillard University. The decision feels bittersweet.

My choice to stay in Houston was tough. I agonized for weeks.

I'm in a position that is no one's fault. I have weighed risks and safety, comfort and practicalities and what's best for my educational future. My answer came by prayer and an honest assessment of my situation.

As I sit in the backyard of my parents' house in the Houston suburb of Missouri City, Texas, typing away on this unseasonably warm winter day, I cannot help but think about my fellow Dillard students. They already have resumed classes in hotel meeting rooms, instead of the familiar halls of Dillard.

Students who have returned to New Orleans are living and studying in the Hilton New Orleans Riverside hotel. The campus is still undergoing repairs. Ravaged by Hurricane Katrina and its floods in August, Dillard now operates as a much smaller college in a consortium with nearby Tulane, Loyola and Xavier universities. I fully understand that the universities in New Orleans are doing all they can to offer students the best possible education under the

circumstances.

I had to do my best after evacuating to Houston, leaving behind nearly everything I had, dusting myself off, applying for aid and starting over.

I had more than myself to think about: Other HARRIS who lost their homes to the floods in New Orleans sought shelter in Houston, too. Like many families, we are not ones to sit and feel sorry for ourselves. We pick ourselves up and carry on with dignity. We supported each other and helped each other to carry on, even with a lack of information and, for a while, a lack of resources, and amid the images of destruction, devastation and the dehumanization of our people, who were portrayed as savages.

As the days turned into weeks, family members began to spread and go to their new homes, some in Washington, some in Huntsville, Ala., many still in Houston. For some, getting settled into their own places meant they could finally exhale somewhat.

Amid all this, my priority was getting back in school, weeks after the start of fall classes. At the time, Dillard was closed indefinitely. I enrolled at the University of Houston, my third school in five years.

I began my college education at the U.S. Air Force Academy. I was attending one of the most prestigious schools in the nation, playing Division I volleyball and training to become an Air

Force officer. I left the academy in May 2004 and transferred to Dillard, my parents' alma mater. I fell in love with Dillard and New Orleans. I became a leader on campus and was excited to begin the 2005 school year as editor of the Courtbouillon newspaper.

When I first arrived at University of Houston, I was overwhelmed by everything that was happening. To top that off, I could never seem to find my way around the sprawling campus. It was tough to adjust to the class sizes: My largest class at Dillard had 14 students. At the University of Houston, it was 90.

At Dillard, I made friends easily because of the small, familial environment. At Houston, it's hard to meet anyone because of the come-and-go commuter-campus atmosphere.

However, most all of my professors were extremely kind and helpful, as were my classmates. They made me feel welcome and comfortable, and while it wasn't Dillard, I found a certain level of comfort in my new surroundings. Last semester, I took five classes. I earned a 3.06 grade-point average for the semester and am very proud of it, considering the circumstances.

The opportunities to succeed at Houston seem to be limitless for the student with the right drive and will to succeed. However, not to gush over my new school -- for no school is perfect -- I do miss the close-knit environment at Dillard, where

there seemed to be genuine care and concern for my welfare and my success as a student.

I miss the whole flavor of New Orleans, and everything the city represented.

In November, I visited New Orleans to retrieve what I could. Although crews and officials were working hard to bring the city back, New Orleans is not ready for university students, in my humble opinion. The city still looked destroyed. The devastation was palpable through the eerie quiet.

Even as the university reopening dates approached, so much remained uncertain. I hear reports about water purity, the cleanliness of the city and crime. Every report differs. As late as December, Dillard students were told we might be staying on cruise ships should we choose to return. That housing option ultimately was rejected. I was definitely against that idea, but I didn't feel any more comfortable with the alternative of staying in a hotel.

Ultimately, I had to look at what both Dillard and the University of Houston had to offer. Receiving a healthy scholarship from Houston for my next semester helped. It didn't hurt that the university accepted close to all of my transferable credit hours. I'm not sure whether I'll be graduating in May, after the summer, or in December, but I'm OK with that.

Leaving the loving embrace of Dillard's family for the

formal handshakes of the University of Houston has been a shock to my system, but I know that it is preparing me for the world outside.

I also know that Dillard got me ready for the change. The beauty of the school is that it builds you up so that when you leave, you have the confidence to face any situation. Being uprooted for the third time would not have been as easy if I had not experienced that build-you-up philosophy.

In an odd way, the separation has strengthened our friendships. We miss each other dearly, and know one day we will see each other again. Hurricane Katrina might have pushed us to every coast, but it could not sever the bonds of friendship.

I remember fondly all the fun I had in New Orleans. No amount of floodwater could fade or warp those memories. More important, I won't let it dampen my spirit or determination to accomplish my goals.

As the nation moves forward, and Katrina becomes more and more an afterthought, all that I have learned from the experience will stay with me -- at the University of Houston and for the rest of my life.

Ashley R. Harris is a senior print communications major at the University of Houston. This is part of a special 2006 series appearing in THE BLACK COLLEGEIAN Magazine Second Semester Super Issue through a collaboration by Black College Wire (BlackCollegeWire.org) and THE BLACK COLLEGEIAN (Blackcollegian.com), now celebrating its 35th publishing year.

## HBCU administrators suppress activism

By Rudy Jean-Bart  
Black College Wire

Hampton is proof. The university thought about expelling students who protested against George W. Bush by participating in a nationwide student walkout against Bush's administration and the war in Iraq. This is proof that the spirit of the civil rights era is a distant memory.

Seven Hampton students faced disciplinary charges Dec. 2 after distributing unapproved fliers advertising the Nov. 2 anti-war protest. Six were ordered to perform 20 hours of community service and a seventh received a warning.

Many blacks detract from their race by trying to revoke the spirit that led blacks in this country to get many of their freedoms.

The scary part is that these Uncle Toms, or to modernize it, Clarence Thomases, are the ones who are running historically black institutions.

In "The Mis-education of the Negro," the author and historian Carter G. Woodson talked about the problem of many HBCUs trying to fit into the popular American culture, neglecting to train students to be proud of their ancestry and of who they are. Woodson was saying many black colleges were educating their students about everything but themselves.

Woodson wrote that



Rudy Jean-Bart

book in the early 20th century. It's sad to see the same problem often still exists. Black colleges have been somewhat lacking in living out what a black college is supposed to be: more than just a place that gives many young black adults a degree, a place that encourages students to be proud of self, to speak against power when respect of self is being denied.

The black college is supposed to have leaders who put students before anything. That Hampton thought of expelling students because they spoke out against a president who has been apathetic toward their feelings and those of the whole country is ludicrous.

The black-college experience is supposed to give students the feeling of pride in who they are. Instead, for many, they are experiencing an institution whose leaders are more interested in kissing the backsides of those who really couldn't care less about them.

Rudy Jean-Bart is a senior public relations student at Florida A&M University who wrote this for the Fannin. He may be contacted at rudyjeanbart@excite.com

### ATTENTION, FACULTY AND STAFF

Students want to hear your voice!  
Submit a column to *Overlooking the Hill*.

Suggested submission topics include but are not limited to academia, advice to students, suggestions on improvement for student-professor relations, why you chose to work at Prairie View, and even research summaries.

Please submit your 400 word max article to  
pv\_panther2006@yahoo.com



## What is your kryptonite?



By **Nneka Meka**  
Editor in Chief

After "Sex is like a box of chocolates..." from last week, several of my peers have approached me to inquire about whether or not the events described in my column were fact or fiction.

To clear the air, every word was true. The bigger question is, are we so arrogant and naive that we cannot fathom knowing someone with HIV? Do all suffer from a severe case of the superman complex? I think so, and therein lies our problem.

HIV/AIDS and other STDs do not have a face. You

can't look at an individual and know they are infected, and just because you are young or you are smart or you are pretty does not mean you are immune to infection.

Oftentimes as young people we see things on the news or hear about things in class and never imagine that they could happen to us. We may pick up a paper and read about a local robbery, then leave our apartment door open because we are so convinced that we won't be robbed. However, the recent unfortunate events that have occurred since the last issue of *The Panther* have confirmed how strange life is and how short life is. It has confirmed the importance of living in the moment because honestly all we are guaranteed is this moment.

I would like to send out my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Antwan McKinney and Trinidad Lamond Foster, as well as my prayers for the healing and recovery of Chris Hill.

## Stop the violence



By **Rashad Morgan**  
Sports Editor

Lately, this campus has been getting out of hand. My concern is with all of the violence that has been generating over the past couple of weeks. To my

knowledge there have been three fights, a shooting, and another confrontation that almost escalated into something tragic.

Okay, fighting is a natural instinct that we are born with, and that instinct will surface when we are feeling threatened, or angry. As adults we need to focus on being competitive with the world around us, not with each other. Put that aggression into typing a research paper, reading a book, developing a craft, writing poems or raps, or my favorite...getting money.

There is so much more out there to be focused on. When I came to college, there was one main thing on my mind, graduating and making money afterwards. However, you can get money in school by selling

CDs and DVDs, hustling shoes and clothes, throwing parties, cutting or braiding hair, and even starting your own company. The options are limitless and ideas come a dime for a dozen. I know I'm getting off the subject at hand but my point is: channel those emotions toward goals you want to accomplish, a passion of yours, or towards something you truly believe in.

Everybody's stressed out, mad, depressed, and really about to lose their mind. Well, I heard there's a party Thursday night...well tonight, I don't know where it's at...ask around, I heard it's going down.

### Today in Black History Feb. 08...

1944 Author Alice Walker, known for her writings that explore social issues of women, is born in Eatonton, GA. A daughter of a sharecropper, she will write such acclaimed novels as "The Color Purple," "Possessing the Secret of Joy," "The Temple of My Familiar," and "By the Light of My Father's Smile."

1968 Three South Carolina State students are killed during segregation protest in Orangeburg, SC.

## PURPLE & GOLD POLL

What are your opinions concerning the recent tragedies on campus?



It is definitely a wake up call. It lets us know that we need to make the most of the time given to us.

-**J.B. Junior**  
Biology



I think it is so heartbreaking because they were so young. It has really put a damper on the student body.

-**Nicole Sapp**  
Junior  
Architecture



It is very heartwrenching. It makes you think hard about life.

-**Harris D. Brown**  
Sophomore  
Architecture



It's a tragic event that happened, but God is there to uplift the heavy hearts and comfort those in need most.

-**Seressa Nickerson**  
Sophomore  
Criminal Justice

Evan White

# SPORTS

EDITED BY RASHAD MORGAN RMORGAN@PIAWE.EDU

## Steelers win Super Bowl XL

Associated Press

Hines Ward started the season as a training camp holdout. He ended it as a Super Bowl MVP.

Bill Cowher finally delivered the Vince Lombardi Trophy to the Rooney family in his 14th season as coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Both Ward and Cowher were at the final Super Bowl news conference honoring the MVP and the winning coach on Monday morning.

Ward caught five passes for 123 yards, including a 43-yard touchdown, to lead the Steelers to a 21-10 win over the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XL at Ford Field on Sunday.

The franchise's all-time leading receiver with 574 catches, Ward staged a 10-day holdout at training camp before signing a contract extension worth \$27.5 million through the 2009 season.

"This was a wild ride, from the beginning of the season with the contract negotiation to winning the Super Bowl MVP," Ward said. "For me to win this award, words can't describe it."

Former Steeler Lynn Swann was the first wide receiver to win a Super Bowl MVP in Pittsburgh's 21-17 win over Dallas in January 1975.

This was the fifth Super Bowl title for the Steelers (15-5), tying them with the San Francisco 49ers and the Dallas

Cowboys for the most in NFL history. But this one came after a 25-year drought.

The longest-tenured active coach, Cowher went to the Super Bowl for the first time 10 years ago, but lost to heavily-favored Dallas, 27-17.

Cowher replaced Hall of Fame coach Chuck Noll in Pittsburgh in 1992. Noll guided the Steelers to four Super Bowl

first championship came with the first sixth-seeded team to reach a Super Bowl. The Steelers were only the second team in NFL history to reach a Super Bowl after winning three road playoff games.

Pittsburgh's Jerome Bettis capped his 13-year career with a Super Bowl victory in his hometown. Nicknamed "The Bus" for his smashmouth

and was intercepted twice.

The stars for Pittsburgh on Sunday were Ward, who became the second straight wide receiver to earn Super Bowl MVP honors, running back Willie Parker and wide receiver Antwaan Randle El.

Wide receiver Deion Branch of New England was the MVP of Super Bowl XXXIX.

Parker set a Super Bowl record with a 75-yard touchdown run on the second play from scrimmage in the third quarter, giving the Steelers a 14-3 lead. Parker eclipsed Marcus Allen, who had a 74-yard touchdown run for the Los Angeles Raiders in Super Bowl XVIII against Washington. Randle El became the first wide receiver to throw a touchdown in Super Bowl history. A college quarterback at Indiana before he was converted to wide receiver by the Steelers, Randle El took a handoff from Parker on a reverse, ran to the right and lofted a perfect pass to Ward with 8:56 left in the fourth quarter to complete the

## Bettis retires in fashion

Associated Press

He pulled himself up onto the interview podium with a slight grimace, but as he sank into the director's chair, his beaming smile quickly returned.

"I'm still in a place," he said, shaking his head. "This is amazing."

The record will show that Bettis carried the football only 14 times for 43 yards in Sunday's Super Bowl XL. Despite the best efforts of the Pittsburgh Steelers, he did not score a touchdown. It really didn't matter.

The story line everyone outside of Seattle hoped would come to pass did. Thirty-three years after he was born here in Detroit, "The Bus" became a champion when the Steelers defeated the Seattle Seahawks 21-10.

The story of the NFL's fifth all-time leading rusher is over. Finally, he is at peace. At last, he is home.

"It is an end. It's been an incredible ride. I came back to win a championship, and now I have to bid farewell. It's totally, totally a blessing. I'm probably the luckiest football player who ever played."

There were tears on the Steelers' sideline in the waning moments of Pittsburgh's loss in the 2004 AFC Championship Game at home to the New England Patriots. Rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who threw three interceptions, felt responsible. He told Bettis that if he came back for one more season, he'd get him to the Super Bowl in Detroit.

Bettis said he had been mulling retirement all season long. In the middle of last week back in Pittsburgh -- he couldn't remember whether it was Tuesday or Wednesday -- Bettis sat down separately with Steelers chairman Dan Rooney and president Arthur Rooney Jr. and told them he planned to retire after the game.

"Having him come back, winning the Super Bowl, from where it all started, it's a fairy tale come true for him."

Bettis, like John Elway, goes out at the very top. He'll likely be enshrined in Canton, Ohio, as a member of the Class of 2010.



Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

One for the ages: Jerome Bettis embraces MVP, Hines Ward, after their Super Bowl victory.

titles in a six-year span of the 1970s, the last coming after the 1979 season.

"I'm very fortunate and blessed to work for a man like (owner) Dan Rooney and coach for a city with the greatest fans," Cowher said. "This was the best team I've ever been a part of. I was a small part of it. Believe me. I can't tell you how gratifying it is."

Ironically, Cowher's

running style, Bettis was not much of a factor with 43 yards on 14 carries.

The NFL's fifth all-time leading rusher, Bettis announced his retirement on the podium after the Super Bowl win.

Ben Roethlisberger became the youngest quarterback to win a Super Bowl at 23 years, 11 months. But he completed just 9-of-21 passes for 123 yards

scoring. Seattle's Mike Holmgren was trying to become the first coach to win a Super Bowl with two different franchises. He guided the Green Bay Packers to the championship after the 1996 season.

The Seahawks (15-4) finished with the best record in the NFC en route to their first trip to the Super Bowl in the 30-year history of the franchise.





Photo courtesy of Gitonga M'Mbijewe

**Bringing the heat:** Panther pitchers sent Paul Quinn batters back to the dug out during Friday and Saturday's games.

## Prairie View sweeps Paul Quinn in two day matchup

By Sean Mitchell  
Panther Staff

Prairie View pitcher Matt Chase, shut down a late rally in Game 1 and Panther Calvin Lester had three hits and three RBI's in Game 2 as Prairie View swept a double header from Paul Quinn, 5-4 and 14-0.

"We came out

lackadaisical, but we showed enough focus to win" said Coach Michael Robertson. We showed some pride out there; we won't win all of our games, but a win is a win."

With the score tied 3-3 in the bottom of the fourth of Game 1, short stop Michael Richard singled in Roshard Shorter to make it 4-3 Panthers (6-0).

Later in the fifth, Brandon Whitby sent a fly ball

into left field that brought in Willford White and made the score 5-3. However, Paul Quinn responded by loading the bases in the top of the seventh.

After a James Taylor walk brought the Tigers (0-3) within one run of the Panthers, Matt Chase got David Early to ground out and end Game 1, earning Chase the save.

Fernando Almaguer picked up the win, giving up three runs (one earned), two

walks, and six hits with two strikeouts in five innings of work.

In Game 2, Prairie View struck early and often, including a four run outburst in the seventh and a six run outburst in the eighth. Ten different Panthers had base hits and Adrian Canales (1-0) picked up his first win of the season, giving up 0 runs, three hits and four walks with three strikeouts in five innings pitched.

## Frazier already signs 15 new recruits

### Panther News Service

After the first day of signing football players to National Letters of Intent, the Prairie View A&M University list of recruits is holding at 15 - eight from high school, five junior college transfers and two transfers.

"Overall, I'm pretty pleased with the players we've signed," said Coach Henry Frazier III. "We addressed our needs,

although we're still looking to add one or two defensive tackles and maybe a tight end.

"With this class of recruits, we got faster as a team. We've added some size at defensive tackle and on the offensive line. This group will definitely bring more competition and depth at certain positions.

"We have high academic standards at the university and I'm confident that these student-athletes will excel in the classroom and on the field."

See **Frazier** on page 11

## Upcoming Events

### Basketball

**Men**  
2/11 vs. Grambl. 7:30pm  
2/13 vs. Jacks. State 7:30pm  
2/18 @ Miss. Valley 7:30pm  
2/20 @ Pine Bluff 7:30pm

**Women**  
2/11 vs. Jacks. State 5:30pm  
2/13 vs. Grambl. 5:30pm  
2/18 @ Ark. Pine Bluff 5:30pm

### Baseball

2/10 @ Jack. State 12:00pm  
2/11 @ Alcorn State 12:30pm  
2/17 @ Texas State 6:30pm  
2/18 @ Texas State 2:00pm  
2/25 @ Texas South. 12:00pm

### Softball

2/10 @ Texas A&M-Kingsville

### Tennis

**Men**  
2/4 @ Abilene Christ. 4:00pm  
2/11 South. Methodist 12:00pm

**Women**  
2/11 Southern Methodist

### Basketball Standings

**Men**

Southern	9-2, 10-11
Grambling State*	8-3, 10-8
Jackson State	7-4, 11-2
Alabama A&M	6-5, 11-2
Alabama State	6-5, 8-14
Miss. Valley State	6-5, 6-14
Alcorn State	5-6, 5-15
Ark. Pine Bluff	4-7, 7-12
Texas Southern*	3-7, 5-17
Prairie View	0-10, 3-18

**Women**

Southern	8-3, 11-9
Jackson State**	8-3, 10-11
Miss. Valley	7-4, 11-9
Alabama State	7-4, 9-10
Alabama A&M	6-5, 10-10
Alcorn State	5-6, 7-12
Ark. Pine Bluff	5-6, 6-14
Grambling State	4-7, 8-10
Prairie View	3-7, 4-16
Texas Southern	1-9, 3-16

\*Men's basketball next opponent

\*\*Women's basketball next opponent

Frazier from page 10

The new recruits are:

**Donald Babers** (RB, 5-10, 175, Houston, Texas/Westbury)

Rated a two-star recruit by Rivals.com...versatile athlete who's a threat on either side of the ball...will be used in a variety of roles on the field...rushed for nearly 1,000 yards and recorded 282 receiving yards as a senior...scored 15 touchdowns...earned first team all-district honors at running back.

**Anthony Beck** (SS, 6-1, 175, Houston, Texas/Channel-view)

A player who will add athleticism in the secondary...a member of the District 23-4A first team...recorded three interceptions last season...also one of the top basketball players in the Houston area.

**Joe Fontenot** (DB, 5-10, 175, Houston, Texas/Central Michigan)

A transfer who will add speed to the secondary...has the ability to return kicks and punts...a starter on a high school team that finished as the state runner-up in 2004...recorded a 104-yard kick return in high

school.

**Steven Gunns** (ATH, 6-2, 185, Oklahoma City, Okla./Southeast)

Quick and explosive route runner...played quarterback and defensive back in high school...ability to play multiple positions...played in the 2005 Jim Thorpe All-Star Football Game...named to the Oklahoma Football Coaches Association Class 5A West team as a defensive back.

**Mark Ison** (WR, 5-11, 185, Ontario, Calif./Mt. San Antonio College)

Recorded 33 receptions for 508 yards with four touchdowns last season...led his team in receptions and receiving yards.

**Steve Jackson II** (OL, 6-1, 280, Fontana, Calif./Utah State)

Will add depth to the offensive line...hails from Kaiser High School in Fontana, Calif...earned all-county, all-area, all-valley, all-CIF and all-state honors as a senior.

**Alphonso Johnson** (OL, 6-3, 305, Montgomery, Ala./East Mississippi CC)

Expected to provide an impact on the offensive line at the center position...registered 49 pancake blocks and graded out over 80 percent...earned second team

all-conference honors...selected Prairie View over Jackson State.

**Evan Johnson** (DE, 6-11/2, 235, Fort Lauderdale, Fla./Dillard)

Accounted for 63 tackles, 15 tackles for loss and nine sacks as a senior...participated in the Florida North versus South All-Star game.

**Laureno Maximo** (WR, 6-2, 195, Sugar Land, Texas/Dulles)

Earned first team 20-5A All-district honors...ranked seventh in the Houston area among wide receivers with 44 receptions for 836 yards...recorded a game-high 224 receiving yards this season.

**Derrick Miles** (TE, 6-2, 220, Missouri City, Texas/Hightower)

Averaged 15.8 yards per catch...finished the season with 126 yards on eight receptions...good blocker at the point of attack...will have an opportunity to play early.

**Dalvin Nettles** (OL, 6-2, 300, Houston, Texas/Forest Brook)

Hails from a strong high school program...earned District 20-4A first team honors at the center position...a solid run blocker...selected Prairie View over Southern and Texas

Southern.

**Anthony Nunley** (DT, 6-1, 310, Los Angeles, Calif./Los Angeles SW CC)

Run-stuffer who'll be expected to contribute immediately...registered 85 tackles and three sacks last season...earned honorable mention honors on the All-Western State Southern Conference team...selected Prairie View over San Diego.

**Yavarian Richardson** (DB, 5-9, 175, Dallas, Texas/Skyline)

All-district player who recorded 83 tackles and 13 pass break-ups...starter on a playoff team...will play cornerback for the Panthers.

**Maurice Robinson** (OL, 6-4, 320, Crawford, Miss./East Mississippi CC)

Junior college teammate of fellow signee Alphonso Johnson...will add experience, size

and depth to the offensive line...expected to play tackle for the Panthers...selected Prairie View over Jackson State.

**Mike Williams** (WR, 6-1, 200, Los Angeles, Calif./Citrus CC)

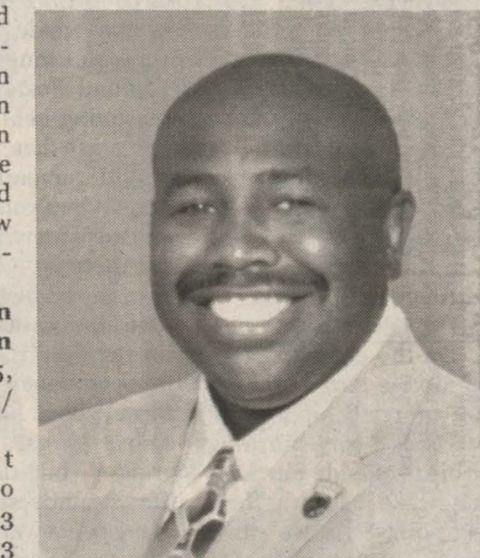


Photo courtesy of Sports Information

**Moving up:** In his second season as head coach, Frazier led the Panthers to a late season rally, winning four of the last six games.

Caught 39 passes for 735 yards...adds depth, size and speed to the receiving corps...also recruited by Northern Iowa.

*Traces of Elegance*

*Memorial Student Center Ballroom*

*Sevens of Seven*

*Thursday February 16, 2006*

*Sponsored by BB*

*Pick Up FREE Invitation MSC Rm 221*

*Attire Specifications on Reverse Side*

## Black Tie Optional

*Black Tie Optional is one of the various forms of attire that you might be asked to wear to an event. Black Tie Optional asks that you dress in a formal fashion to best suit the event. The following options are available for both males and females.*

**Male**  
*A Tuxedo or A Dark Suit with a Tie*

**Female**  
*A Cocktail Dress, A Long Dress, or Dressy Evening Separates*



## What Mama said



By Alanna Jones  
L/H & A/E and Managing Editor

On the dawn of every new day do we stop and take the time to really appreciate the sun rising every morning and the birds outside our window that wake us with their whistling songs? As we yawn and stretch do we think that this may be the last day that we take a breathe? Do we really absorb the reality that the decisions we make may be a result of someone else's fate?

As I heard the news of the accidental shooting of Chris Hill I remembered when my Mama sat me down and said, "Don't play with guns." At that time I didn't understand, but now I do.

I woke up on Monday morning to hear the news of the tragic deaths of Antwan McKinney and Trinidad Lamond Foster. Although the reasoning behind the cause of the crash has not been clarified, I remember Mama saying, "When you go out be careful cause there are crazy people out there."

I began to realize that Mama wasn't wasting her breath. She told me all these things to save me, but also save those whom I can hurt. Those simple phrases were taken for granted, but the simplicity of life was understood when three of my peers were hurt or killed. Just one question, "Do you remember what Mama said?"

In life, things happen that should give us the experience to make better decisions, but when the moment arrives do we thoroughly think about the outcomes?

As you travel through your day-to-day lives, try to listen to what Mama said cause it could save you and the ones you love.

## LIFESTYLES & HEALTH

EDITED BY ALAYNA JONES AJONES7@PIVNU.EDU

# Safe sex in relationships

By Alexis Benton  
Panther Staff

If committing yourself to a person while in college should be a loving and wonderful experience, then why does it always end up feeling like a challenge? There are so many interferences couples have to face, that it feels like there is no way to maintain a positive relationship such as people in your business and trusting the other to be faithful. All of this and the thought of contracting a STDs from your boo is enough to drive a person to celibacy. But before going to that extreme, consider that you can have a healthy relationship with or without sex.

The choice is always up to you. Remember, there is no such thing as safe sex. Aside from the emotional and physiological implications of your romantic encounter, realize that a condom is not a 100 percent guarantee from contracting genital warts, herpes, and AIDS. In fact, condoms only

protect against HIV and AIDS 85 percent of the time while in use. Which means, that 15 percent chance you are taking should be worth it. Theresa Crenshaw, M.D., one of the past presidents of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists, once asked 500 marriage and relationship therapists if they would recommend condoms for AIDS protection. The majority said yes, but when asked if they would ever have sex with an AIDS infected partner with a condom, no one said yes. The point is to know that the risk you are taking should be one you definitely want to make.

Choose your significant other wisely. No one is perfect, but at least realize what imperfections you both have. Ask questions about their past relationships and if they have ever been tested for anything. If you are just beginning a relationship, set a physical standard. Of course, with feelings and emotions comes the thought of

being intimate. But when it does happen, make sure that both partners are aware of the risk and accept whatever may come out of the relationship. Deciding to become sexually intimate involves emotional commitment as well. Getting tested together can be another way to signify your love.

For more information, you can visit the website [www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org) to find out about other information on testing sites and procedures. Practicing safer sex doesn't mean eliminating sex from your life, it means being smart and showing concern and respect for your partner and yourself.

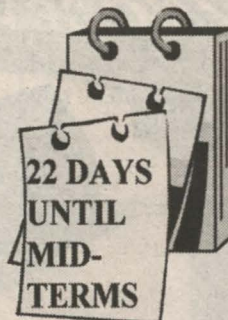
Do you want to write for *The Panther* or do you want to submit a '20 Question?' Please send in all your contact information and questions to: [panther@pvamu.edu](mailto:panther@pvamu.edu) and a copy to [pv\\_panther2006@yahoo.com](mailto:pv_panther2006@yahoo.com)



## The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

PARTICIPATE IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES!!



You must have a grade of 'C' (OR 'S') or better in your developmental class (es) at mid-terms to be able to pre-register for summer or fall 2006. Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick THEA testing schedule or call 936/857-2747.

### BE SMART! BE SAFE! PLAY BY ALL THE RULES!

*Bldg #35 will hold a special activity to support "Wigs for Kids" in partnership with Gamma Gamma Sigma on February 14*  
*Bldgs #37 & 38 are planning a joint forum on Parenthood...watch this space for more information*  
*Bldg #42 has a "Sister to Sister Rap" session scheduled for February*  
*Bldg #45 has a Black History Trivia competition and a Dating Game activity planned for February*

UC Congratulates the Marching Storm on their performance and thanks all university personnel who assisted with the trip to the Honda Classic!!

## Love 101: How does it work?

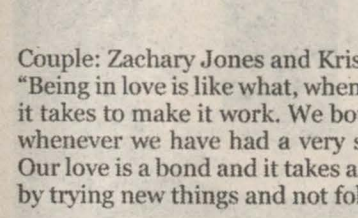
By LaCheryl E. Whitlow  
Panther Staff

People love in different ways and depending on your values, background and life opinions how you make your love work is just as important as uttering those three magical words, "I love you." The following couples were asked what makes their love work and how. Is it sex? Is communication the key? Alternatively, perhaps, these couples were simply made for each other. Whatever the case is, here is what they said...



Couple: Justin Daniels and Victoria Carter

"We are blessed that the Lord allowed us to meet each other. Even though there were certain things that are different, we are still highly compatible. In addition to that, we think that our relationship has more substance because we are both spiritual. What works for us is the fact that we are spontaneous. It does not mean that you spend a lot of money or anything, it could be simple things like a walk in the park. We are privileged to take on the large responsibility to protect and serve each other un-selfishly in this relationship. We are both truly blessed."



Couple: Zachary Jones and Krista Brumsey

"Being in love is like what, when, where, and wherever and whatever it takes to make it work. We both have very demanding majors and whenever we have had a very stressful academic week, we go out. Our love is a bond and it takes a lot of faith and trust to make it work by trying new things and not following into the same routines."



Couple: Rafael Revuelta and Emily Scarborough

"For us, we had been friends for a long time before we ever started dating and going out with each other and that is what set the foundation for our relationship. Our whole relationship is built on excitement and communicating with one another. We are best friends and that only enhances being in love and sexual intimacy."

Couple: Robert Pinkney and Brandice Mouttet

"We are in love. We talk about everything and when we first met, we had no idea it would turn into what it is. Our personalities are opposite but our hearts are very compatible. We do not have a sexual relationship but we still connect on an intimate level with each other. We have been together for one year and four months."

Nevertheless, despite the songs, books, and movies produced that try to expose the pain that "love" brings for many of your peers on campus they defy the ties and beat the odds. Whatever the case maybe it is evident that the couples above have what it takes to make it truly.

Photos by: LaCheryl E. Whitlow

## The possible epidemic: Bird Flu

By Sean Mitchell  
Panther Staff

Despite its name, bird flu affects more than just birds.

Humans can also suffer greatly from a disease that has become more common in recent months. Time will tell just how great of a menace bird flu will become.

According to Wikipedia, bird flu (or avian influenza, as it is technically known) is a disease caused by the virus, "influenzavirus A," generally found in birds, but one that can also affect humans as well as other species of animals.

The symptoms may include fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, and conjunctivi-

tis as well as severe pneumonia that may be fatal.

But there are many diseases which contain symptoms such as these. The question then becomes why bird flu would be any different.

Kelly M. Pyrek, who writes for [www.infectioncontroltoday.com](http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com) answers this important question. She states that "World health officials have been watching this growing threat, pondering the eventuality of an antigenic shift from animal to human, resulting in a recombinant strain of influenza to which no one is immune. This global disaster waiting to happen has many public health experts asking not 'if,' but 'when.'"

Scientific observation

has not seen the ability of the virus to spread from human to human so far, but Pyrek also feels it was important to note that "because influenza viruses have the potential to change and gain the ability to spread easily between people, monitoring for human infection and person-to-person transmission is important."

This is the main reason why scientists know they must keep this virus contained, for further mutation of the virus into one that can spread between people directly could produce horrific results.

For more information on bird flu, you can log onto <http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com>.

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## PV Greek Life... "I'm an Iota"

There are nine active Greek organizations on campus: Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho, and Iota Phi Theta. The Panther would like to inform readers how students can go to class, socialize, be active members of an organization, and hold a job. Therefore, each week the Panther will showcase a member of each of the nine active Greek organizations on campus.

By Ashley Slayton  
Panther Staff

On September 19, 1963, 12 students at Morgan State University founded Iota Phi Theta, an organization based on the principles of scholarship, leadership, citizenship, fidelity and brotherhood. Iota Phi Theta is the nation's fifth largest, predominantly African-American social service fraternity.

Justin Douglas, vice president of the Lambda chapter of Iota Phi Theta, exemplifies the qualities that make an Iota man. 21-year-old Douglas is a senior music education major from Houston, Texas. Nicknamed *SUIPSIDAL* by his line brothers, he says that his "main focus is to be a producer and songwriter."

Douglas joined the brotherhood of Iota Phi Theta in spring of 2005. He is also president of Kappa Kappa Psi, a member of The Marching Storm, the university symphonic band and the university brass ensemble. The fraternity's motto; "Building a tradition, not resting upon one" is more than a concept, it is an adopted way of living.

No one believes in upholding this as much as Douglas himself, who saw his membership in Iota Phi Theta as "an opportunity to build something great back into what it used to be." Although Iota Phi Theta is a relatively young Greek organization, this is of little significance to him and instead has opened his eyes and encouraged him to work even harder. "You're coming in knowing that you have to put in ten times as much work for your organization to be noticed."

Like any other organization, there are mis-

conceptions about the Iotas that are untrue. "It used to be that they thought that to be an Iota you had to be a Mason, but that's not true," says Douglas. Another rumor, proved to be false, is that the Iotas are currently off the yard. Although numbers have dwindled in recent years, Iota brotherhood is still as strong as it was in 1971 when the Lambda chapter was established at Prairie View A&M University. One of the most common misconceptions is that students need to be members of the ROTC to become an Iota and Doug-

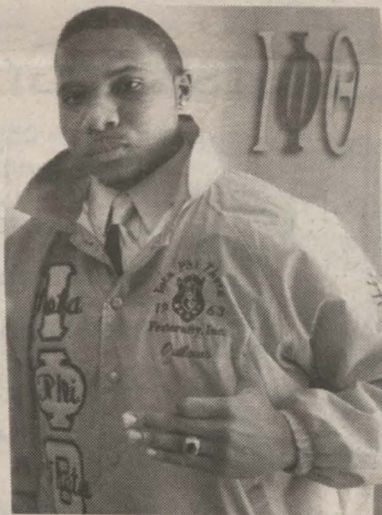


Photo by Alanna Jones

**Justin Douglas**, Vice President of the Lambda chapter of Iota Phi Theta at PVAMU.

las says that is not true.

When asked what advice he would give to an aspiring Iota, Douglas commented, "Don't be scared to talk to us, because all of us are down to earth. We accept everybody as a man." Membership in Iota Phi Theta is not for the man of weak convictions. The fraternity was founded upon the principle of building a man's character and teaching him to reach beyond basic limitations. Day after day, Douglas keeps in mind the words he lives by, "Never quit anything I start and always strive for the highest."

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## Events for Feb. 9-Feb 15, 2005

Thursday, 2/9	Monday, 2/13	Tuesday, 2/14	Wednesday, 2/15
NAACP Black and White Affair Ticket Sales Noon-2 p.m. MSC	Financial Aid Workshops 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MSC	Residence Life Meeting 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MSC	Residence Life Meeting 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MSC
Alpha Phi Alpha Black and Gold Pageant 5 p.m.-11 p.m. MSC	NAACP Black and White Affair Ticket Sales Noon-2 p.m. MSC	Financial Aid Workshop 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MSC	Student Activities Step Afrika 8 a.m.-11 p.m. MSC
Delta Sigma Theta Seminar 6 p.m.-9 p.m. New Science	SGA Fresh Monday w/ DJ Noon-2 p.m. Outside MSC	Gamma Sigma Sigma Can Food Drive 10 a.m.-4 p.m. MSC	Special Programs Black History Expo 9 a.m.-7 p.m. MSC Foyer
Iota Phi Theta Video Game Tournament 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Student Lounge	NAACP Black and White Affair 4 p.m.-11 p.m. MSC	Sigma Gamma Rho PRHOtect Yourself 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Water Fountain	CAB Informative Session 11 a.m.-2 p.m. MSC Outside
Alpha Lambda Omega Bible Study 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Chapel	Alpha Kappa Alpha Seminar 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Seminar	Back To Basics 7 p.m.-11:55 p.m. Spring Ball MSC	NAACP Membership Drive 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. MSC Outside
	CAB "Speakers and Lectures" 6 p.m.-10 p.m. MSC		Delta Sigma Theta Elephant Walk T-Shirts Noon-2 p.m. MSC Outside
			Student Activities Lecture Series 4 p.m.-10 p.m. MSC Auditorium
<b>Friday, 2/10</b>	Kappa Kappa Psi Tribute To Women of PVAMU 7:15 p.m.-9 p.m. Band Hall		Delta Sigma Theta Dating Game 6 p.m.-9 p.m. New Science
Counselor's Forum 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MSC			Phi Beta Sigma Seminar 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Library
Gamma Sigma Sigma Passing Out Flyers 10 a.m.-4 p.m. MSC			Alpha Lambda Omega Prayer Request 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. MSC Outside
NAACP Black and White Affair Ticket Sales Noon-2 p.m.			FOCCS Bible Study 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Chapel
<b>Saturday, 2/11</b>	Medical Academy Healthy Heart Walk 9 a.m.-Noon Outside		
<b>Sunday, 2/12</b>	Delta Sigma Theta Founder's Day Program 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Chapel		
	Phi Beta Sigma Founder's Day Program 3 p.m.-7 p.m. MSC		

Do you want to write for The Panther

OR

submit a question to  
'20 Questions?'

Please send in your contact  
information or questions to:

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and a copy to

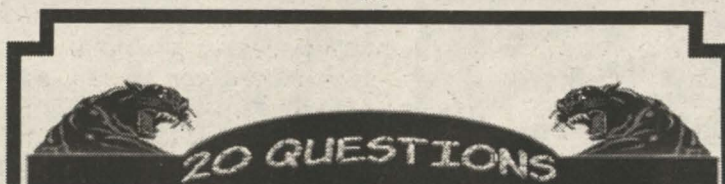
pv\_panther2006@yahoo.com



## Go

By Teria Alcyon Harris

You didn't want me  
I wasn't good enough for you  
So you found another soul  
And told me we were through  
Soon you realized  
You missed your past  
You summoned me  
Knowing I would answer  
If you would only ask  
Hoping to change your mind  
Determined to conquer once again  
What was once mine  
I let you touch me  
And I rediscovered  
That I loved you so much more  
Than I had ever loved you before  
Returning to your new, unsuspecting soul  
Brought me rivers of tears  
And a desolate soul  
Three weeks later  
You are back  
Thirsting for more  
But  
My Love  
I SAY NO  
I refuse to repeatedly DISRESPECT your girl  
And her unsuspecting soul  
Please go your own way  
And let me  
Your Ex  
Go

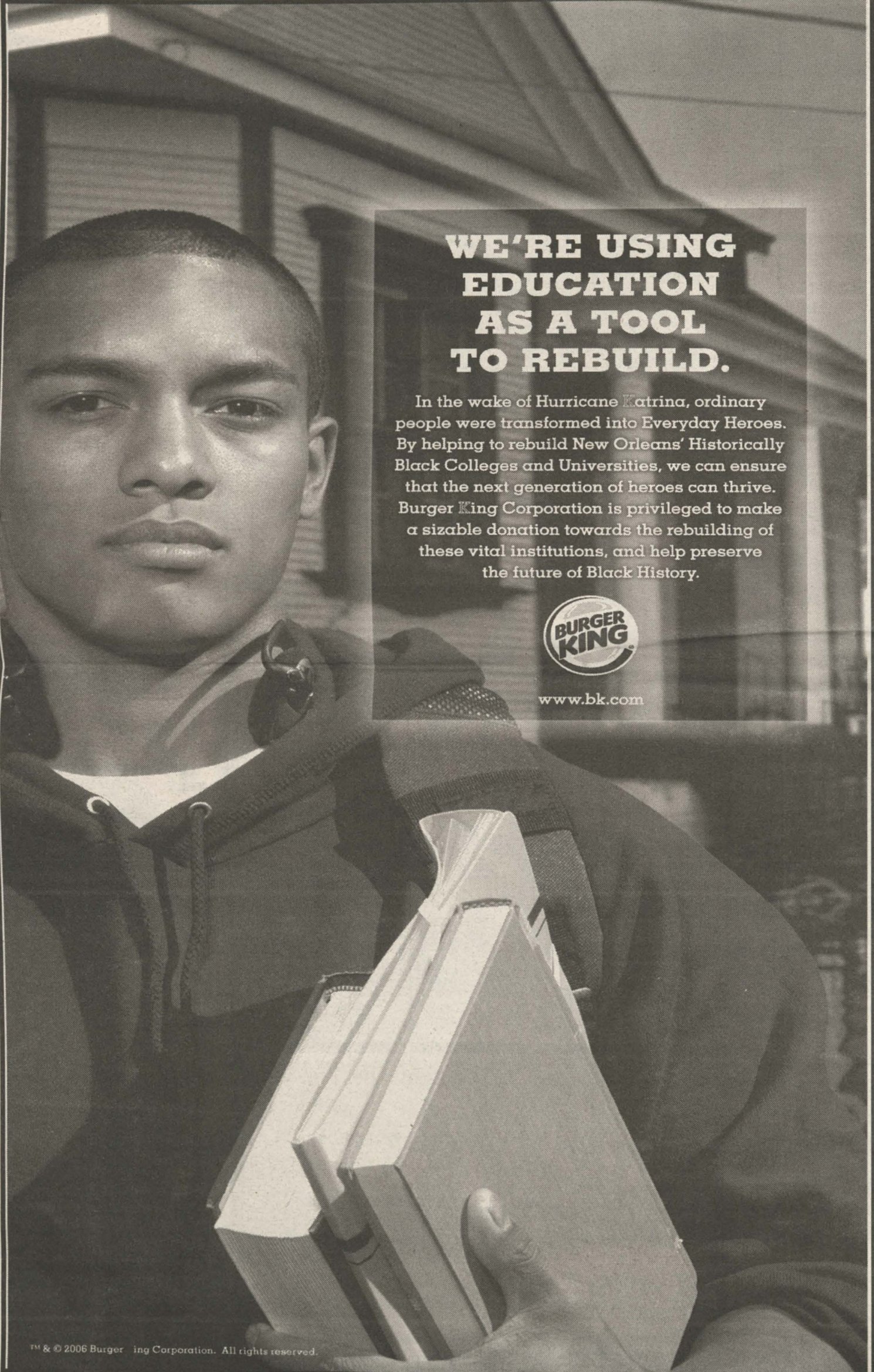


1. Who was the DJ who did the d@%n thang at the PVU/ TSU afterparty at the Newman Center? 2. Which freshman sent in question number one? 3. Who doesn't know DJ Mr. Rogers? 4. Who were the two idiots who ruined one of the best parties so far this year by fighting? 5. Why did Dr. Slade (TSU's President) do it to herself again? 6. Why did the local TV stations highlight the negative things that have happened on campus while covering the fatal car accident of the two PV students? 7. When are people going to stop and realize that not all black people are bad? 8. At the halftime show on Saturday at the PV/ TSU game, who was wondering what happened to all of that AKA's hair? 9. Wasn't it in the middle of her back the day before? 10. When did PALS start fighting at parties? 11. Aren't they supposed to be role models? 12. Why does it seem like everybody is so angry? 13. Isn't it sad that we can't even behave while all of Jesus' right hand men are on campus? 14. Where is the love? 15. Who thought the men's basketball team was really going to win? 16. Don't you wish you would have just gone to the women's game? 17. How many freshmen were expelled for possession in their rooms? 18. Who kept pulling the fire alarm in MSC? 19. Don't you have anything better to do with your time? 20. What do you think?

This is for **entertainment only**. The questions submitted are not the views of **The Panther**. Want to tell us what you think? Please bring your comments and questions to Rm. 219 MSC or e-mail us at [panther@pvamu.edu](mailto:panther@pvamu.edu). Questions are printed at the discretion of **The Panther**.



Read *The Panther* every week!

A black and white photograph of a young man with a serious expression, wearing a dark hoodie. He is holding a large stack of books in his arms. The background shows a building with a porch.

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