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THE PANTHER

"Something inside so strong..."

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



Debate team excels in international... page 4



Life after a breakup, page 13

Lindsey Slay crowned Miss Prairie View A&M University

By Jameka Merriweather
Panther Staff

The 37th Annual Miss Prairie View A & M University Scholarship Pageant, "Timeless Impressions," concluded with the crowning of Lindsey Slay last Wednesday in the Memorial Student Center Auditorium.

The pageant not only awards a deserving young lady with scholarship money but also serves other purposes on and off campus. "The Miss Prairie View A & M University pageant serves as a campus ambassador, a student representative on a number of university committees, and represents the university in various roles, in a number of university-sponsored activities and events (on/off campus)," said the executive director of the 2006-2007 pageant, Denise Simmons.

Numerous hours and lots of hard work go into producing the event. "There is a significant amount of time and energy that is invested into planning the Annual Miss Prairie View A & M Scholarship Pageant. A committee comprised of students and staff plan, coordinate, and implement the pageant activities," said Simmons.

The ladies were this year in four separate areas including the swimsuit competition, talent competition, evening gown competition, and impromptu interview competition. The swimwear consisted of tasteful variations of swimsuits in various styles. The talent portion showcased dramatic interpretations with the exception of one musical act. Formal wear and impromptu questions rounded out the night.

Although a DJ was not present to entertain the crowd, musical groups Forte' and Dalynisse performed special selections for the audience. Forte' performed a special rendition of Jamie Foxx's *Heaven*, while Dalynisse performed an original song.

Lindsey Slay of Greenville, Miss., was ecstatic to be crowned Miss Prairie View. "I am overjoyed and honored to be Miss Prairie View 2006-2007. I feel I am up to the challenge and I have great examples of past queens to follow."

The 1st runner up was Endira Hawkins of Houston, Texas, and 2nd runner up was Erika Green of Baton Rouge, La.

Audience members enjoyed the pageant as a whole. "It [the pageant] was entertaining but the talent portion could have been more varied; everyone didn't have to do dramatic interpretations," said sophomore social work and criminal justice major Brittany Griffin.

Slay felt the pageant is a rewarding experience and is focused on her upcoming job. "Participating in the pageant was a very exciting and enlightening experience. I hope to be a queen who's for the student body."



Photos by Evan White

Road to victory: Lindsay Slay put on a remarkable performance to be crowned Miss Prairie View A&M University 2006-2007.

In the news...

First lady announces conference on literacy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Laura Bush announced an initiative Monday to combat global illiteracy, saying that more than 800 million people around the world can't read.

The first lady said a conference on global literacy will be held in New York in September during the opening of the 61st session of the U.N. General Assembly. The conference will be held in conjunction with the departments of Education and State, USAID and UNESCO.

"Across the globe, more than 800 million people are illiterate," said Mrs. Bush, honorary ambassador for the United Nations' Decade of Literacy. "Eighty-five percent of them live in just 34 countries, concentrated in regions affected by poverty. And more than two-thirds of the 771 million adults who cannot read a simple book, or write a basic sentence, are women."

She spoke at a luncheon attended by 35 ambassadors from six

Anti-abortion campaign picks up support

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — An effort to change the state constitution to legally define a person as existing from the moment of conception is getting some help from a national anti-abortion group.

Judie Brown, president of the American Life League, was in Michigan on Monday. The leader of the Virginia-based group campaigned for the proposal, which supporters hope will appear on the November ballot.

The group backing the petition drive, Michigan Citizens for Life, wants to spark a challenge to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Campaign organizers must submit at least 317,757 valid signatures of Michigan voters to state election officials by early July to qualify for the ballot.

American Life League's support base is largely Catholic. It has thousands of supporters nationwide.

The group is providing some volunteer assistance to the Michigan campaign, Brown said, but not financial support.

The state's largest anti-abortion organization, Right to Life of Michigan, is not supporting the Michigan Citizens for Life campaign.

Many other anti-abortion groups are on board with the Michigan Citizens for Life campaign, however, including Right to Life-Lifespan — a group based in southeastern Michigan.

The American Civil Liberties Union has said it would file a lawsuit to block the Citizens for Life proposal if it makes the ballot and voters approve it.

Ecstasy, cash found hidden in cars

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — In two separate cases, 13,000 tablets of ecstasy and \$360,000 in U.S. currency were seized over the weekend from hidden compartments in vehicles at the Canadian border.

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman said a 19-year-old American citizen and a 19-year-old Mexican citizen were arrested and charged with bulk currency smuggling Friday after 26 bundles of currency were found wrapped in plastic in their vehicle. They were stopped at the Rainbow Bridge port of entry.

Also on Friday, a 47-year-old Canadian citizen was charged with importation and conspiracy to import a controlled substance after bags of ecstasy tablets were found. The arrest occurred at the Peace Bridge port of entry in Buffalo.

The names of those arrested have not been released.

Subway restaurants accused of discriminating against disabled

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Washington-based civil rights group filed a lawsuit Monday against Subway restaurants, alleging the sandwich stores discriminate against people with disabilities.

The Equal Rights Center claims many of the approximately 60 Subways in the Washington area are in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the District of Columbia Human Rights Act because they contain significant barriers to wheelchair users and others with disabilities.

The suit, which was filed in D.C. Superior Court, claims the problems include inaccessible bathrooms; steps blocking access to the restaurants; doors that are too narrow to open; and self-service items that are out of reach.

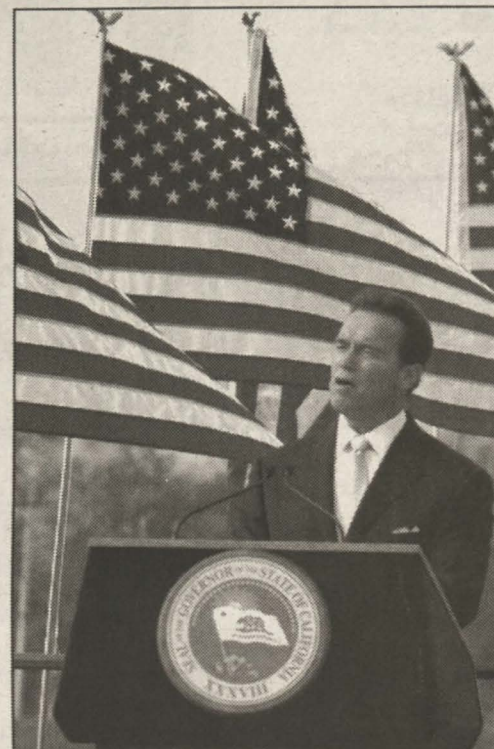
"A group of restaurants that does so much to convey the message that all are welcome within its doors must be very certain that those doors do not shut out people with disabilities," Rabbi Bruce E. Kahn, executive director of the Equal Rights Center, said in a statement.

A spokesman for Subway said the restaurant chain was aware of the lawsuit, but would not comment on the merits because the company had not seen the paperwork.

STATE & NATION

EDITED BY NNEKA MEKA NNEKA@PIVAMU.EDU

California governor informs feds about levee concerns



History could repeat itself: California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger worried that levees could break and cause a disaster similar to the one in New Orleans.

By Juliet Williams
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Federal officials still are not taking seriously the threat of a failure in California's aging levee system and are risking another New Orleans-style disaster by failing to provide funding for repairs, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Tuesday.

During a visit to California last week, President Bush turned down the governor's request for a pre-emptive federal disaster declaration. Instead, he issued a rare directive letting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers help with badly needed levee repairs.

Schwarzenegger also met privately with Bush, but he said Tuesday that the message isn't resonating with the administration. He did not mention the president by name.

"The federal government still is not getting the message," the Republican governor told business leaders during the annual California Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

"They are spending \$100 billion in New Orleans right now because they were not acting fast enough. And here is the time for them to redeem themselves, to go and say, 'We made a mistake before; let's not ever make that mistake again.' And again they are missing the boat."

Bush officials have said the kind of declaration Schwarzenegger was seeking would require that a disaster already occurred. Pre-emptive disaster declarations have never been issued except when a catastrophe was imminent.

Bush's directive allows the Corps of

Engineers to accept \$23 million in California money for repairs on 29 sections of the levee that state officials have identified as critically weak.

Schwarzenegger said he is tired of talk.

"Again they are waiting and they are dialoguing and they are talking. They say 'Well, the permits are going to come. Well, we are going to get more money ...'

"All that dialogue we are hearing, but no true action."

The governor vowed to keep up the pressure, saying the levees are "one big storm, one earthquake away from a major disaster." He said levee ruptures could flood farmland, all of Sacramento, and other Central Valley towns and suburbs, while cutting off Southern California's water supply. Cleanup costs could match what the government is spending in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, he said.

Schwarzenegger has said the state will begin strengthening the levees in June, regardless of whether it receives federal help.

In Washington D.C., meanwhile, the Senate started work Tuesday on an emergency spending bill for Iraq and hurricane Katrina that includes \$22.3 million for five critical projects along California levees — money inserted by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Feinstein said Tuesday that she hopes to add \$14 million more, but the total would still be less than Schwarzenegger has sought from the federal government. The House-passed version of the emergency spending bill does not contain any levee funding, and the two pieces of legislation would need to be reconciled.

CAMPUS

EDITED BY ALANNA JONES AJONES7@PIVAMU.EDU

You ought to be in pictures



Photos by Evan White

Come work for *The Panther*!

I, along with the entire *Panther* staff, would like to invite you to work for *The Panther* next year. We have many positions open and opportunities to gain experience in the field of journalism. If you are interested, drop by *The Panther* office in the MSC, room 219 to fill out our information form at any time. Or, you can always call ext. 2727/ 2132.



By Alanna Jones
News/Managing Editor

PV professor to undertake research in child readability

By Jameka Merriweather
Panther Staff

Assistant professor and licensed psychologist Dr. Tracy L. Thompson is conducting research in an effort to prove that babies are equipped to read.

In an interview with *The Panther*, she expressed how important the first two to three years, or the critical period, is in the language and reading skills of a child. "What happens in the first three years of life is crucial to brain development. The brain operates on a 'use or lose' principle. Only connections in the brain which are activated on a consistent basis are retained and those that aren't used are discarded or pruned away."

Thompson explained that language is easiest to learn during infancy; it's easier or more natural to learn during toddler years. Consequently, reading is a part of language. She believes that instead of waiting until a child is 5 or 6 years old to teach them to read, that babies should be taught to read as early as four months. "Traditionally,

children don't learn to read until six years old but I think reading should be taught during the critical period."

Her research focuses on comparing different groups of low socioeconomic status (SES) to high socioeconomic status.

"Most people of low SES or of the African American cultures have trouble reading. I don't believe it is genetic. Early exposure is the key."

Thompson's research will take on a multi-sensory approach to teaching the child to read. The children are not forced to read but they are taught in a fun way. There is a video, originally developed by Dr. Robert Titzer, which flashes a word on screen followed by a picture that associates the word to the picture. Thompson saw Titzer's video and with her background in psychology, she decided to further her research and test the effectiveness of early reading over time on different groups of children.

Thompson has even tried this approach with her own daughter. "I started my daughter

at four months old. By the time she was eleven months, before she could even speak she could read over 100 words. If she would see the word 'head,' she would point to her head. Or if she saw the word 'run,' she would take off running."

Although Thompson is still searching for funding, she plans to begin her research this summer. "I really want to teach African Americans from the lower level of SES. If they and their parents were exposed, it would put them at an advantage to perform with different culture backgrounds."

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Editor in Chief: Nneka Meka

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News/Managing Editor: Alanna Jones

L/H and A/E Editor: LaCheryl E. Whitlow

Photographers: LeWebster Lacy

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Debate team excels in international tournament

By **Sharonda Peals**
Panther Staff

Prairie View A&M University's debate team was recently awarded first place in the tournament sweepstakes for the International Public Debate Association Email Debate Tournament at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The event took place on April 8.

Headed by Coach Ozzie Banicki, the members of the debate team include Nicole Hines, Jemma Hepburn, Kelaine Carballo, Megan Christopher, Laura Cochran and LaToya Crain.

Prairie View excelled above teams from over ten other colleges and universities. Laura Cochran was a quarter finalist, and LaToya Crain and Megan Christopher were semi-finalists in the tournament.

Banicki said, "We made a big statement for Prai-

rie View and the entire black community because last year Xavier University in New Orleans won the same title. It says a lot that the past two years, students from historical black colleges have won this debate

to join the debate team and participate in these tournaments."

The annual International Public Debate Association debate yournament is open world wide to any English writing



The winning team: (left to right) Ozzie Banicki, Jemma Hepburn, Jamie Jackson, Megan Christopher, and Kelaine Carabello.

tournament. It erases the stereotype that black students do not know how to communicate well and will hopefully encourage more participation from other black college students

persons. In previous years, the association has had competitors from Mexico, England, and even United States soldiers stationed in Iraq, who debated for the University of Baghdad.

Cadets receive top honors at awards ceremony

Press Release

The Army and Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps held their annual Joint Awards Ceremony on April 12.

This event allowed friends and family of army cadets and navy midshipmen to look on as Prairie View students were awarded for their good standings and excellent leadership traits in their respective units and in their university course studies.

The ceremony began with a welcome by the master of ceremonies; Captain Geoffrey J. McKeel, USMC. Following the welcome, spectators were privileged to hear inspiring words promoting the mission and the rich legacy of the University from Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith, the provost and senior vice president for academic and

student affairs at Prairie View A & M University.

Overall, there were 37 different awards handed out including awards from the Sons



of the American Revolution, the Military Officers Association of America, the Professor of Naval Science, and the American Legion

Auxiliary Unit 416.

Following the awards ceremony, the ROTC companies marched forward to salute their honored guests in their time-honored tradition of Pass-in-Review. The Naval Midshipmen Company also treated guests with another tradition: the Change of Command. During this event, the Midshipmen Company Commander Eric R. Hernandez, OC, who has led the Naval midshipmen throughout the year passed his role to lead the company to Midshipman 2/C Virginia G. Vela. The new Midshipmen Company Commander gave a sincere speech of her appreciation and expectations in the days to come before the ceremony officially concluded.

This formal engagement was overviewed by the Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science Captain Larry J. Watson.

Howard student starts rape awareness group

By **Christina M. Wright**
Black College Wire

Two weeks after she says she was robbed and sexually assaulted, and dissatisfied with Howard University's response, a Howard student has mobilized to make sure no female ever has a similar experience.

"If we can get the word out that rape does exist, then, in theory, things like this can be either prevented, or women who survive rape can come forth to report it," the North Carolina native said.

Like most news organizations, Black College Wire does not generally identify those who say they are sexual assault victims. The student and her friend were talking at Banneker Field, near the university, at about 10:30 p.m. on April 6.

This is the student's account of what took place: Three men approached the women, but were politely dismissed. The ladies proceeded to the bleachers, where the same three men, this time masked, approached them again and insisted the women hand over the money that college students "always have."

The students relented and released their valuables. After the robbery, one of the assailants assaulted the alleged victim, while the others forced her friend to watch. While trying to escape, the men told the women not to scream or they would be hurt. When passing sirens scared the men away, the women ran to a group of members of Omega Psi Phi, who were close by but not within eyesight of the bleachers.

The student, and two other women are starting an

organization to reach out to the women of Howard and the District of Columbia. The alleged victim would like to invite to the city the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network or the "Speak Up. Speak Out" public awareness campaign against sexual assault.

The goal of the new organization would be to encourage women to report when they are sexually assaulted. The alleged victim said she believes this incident might be related to a recent string of robberies near Howard.

Both the Campus Police and the Metropolitan Police Department ignored the women's insistence that they could accurately describe the assailants and neither pursued those descriptions, according to the student. At press time, the Metropolitan Police Department had not returned calls about the investigation.

"It definitely should have been put out there," she said. "This is so close to home. Especially for the people that live in the Towers. If they knew, they would be more cautious."

Howard "offers safety tips for use both on and off campus, such as using shuttle and escort services provided by the University; traveling along well-lit routes; avoiding isolated, dark and unpopulated areas whenever possible; avoiding unsafe areas where one may be easily victimized," the statement said.

Metropolitan police collected the remaining property of the two women to capture fingerprints of the assailants. According to Howard officials, the Metropolitan Police Department has an open, ongoing investigation of the case.

Christina M. Wright, a student at Howard University, writes for the Hilltop.

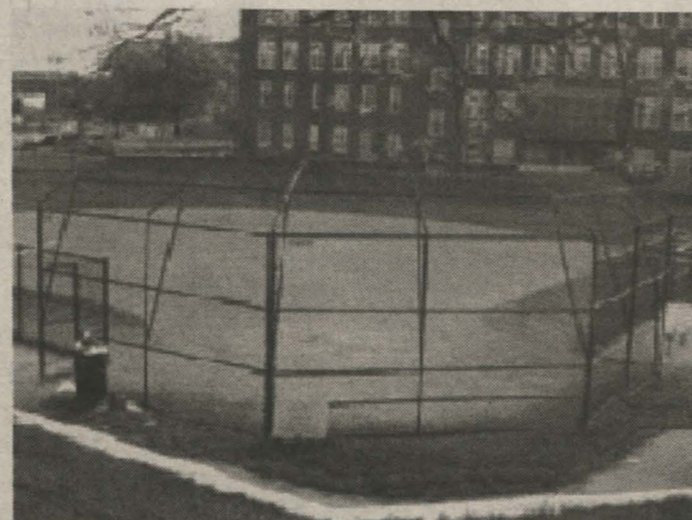


Photo credit: Derrell Smith/the Hilltop

Banneker Field is across the street from the Howard Plaza Towers, a dormitory for upper-classmen and graduate students.

P.E.A.C.E. project recognizes National Sexual Awareness Month

By **Marquita Smith**
Panther Staff

A seminar was held by the P.E.A.C.E. Project last Thursday in the MSC Auditorium in observance of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

At this event students had the opportunity to get educated about sexual abuse. Brochures were available informing students on date rape drugs such as Rohypnol and Ketamine and the causes and effects of them.

A coaster was also passed out called a Date Rape Detector. Seminar participants were encouraged to keep it in their purses if attending functions and if one happens to be curious about a drink that they were served, place a drop of the drink onto the testing spots and if it turns dark blue

then there is a possibility that a drug could be in the drink. Directions are placed on the back so that individuals are aware of the steps that need to be taken.

Other issues were stated in the brochures such as inform people to be aware of their

willing to try to prevent these mishaps.

event

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roundings as far as location and the individuals you hang around. The majority of predators are someone that the victim is familiar with.

The DPS is currently trying to form a union with The P.E.A.C.E. Project and is aware that the issue is growing and would like to be a part of a program is that

History club takes a look at the military

By **Ashley Slayton**
Panther Staff

The W.E.B. DuBois history club held a movie premiere April 20 in the architecture building auditorium.

Set in the 1940s, *A Soldier's Story* uncovers a murder mystery while exploring the plight of black soldiers in the army. The movie, starring Howard E. Rollins Jr., Denzel Washington and Adolph Caesar among other actors, displayed a rich variety of personalities, beliefs, and morals. Lieutenant Colonel Carol Strong, professor of military science, Master Sergeant Dale Prioleau, and Master Sergeant Bruce Veals served as panelists for the discussion following the movie.

Michael Clear, a senior history major, attended the event to gain "a different perspective of the military." Studies have shown the military not only provides people with opportunities but teaches leadership and management as well.

A factor that has remained consistent since the establishment of the military is what Prioleau calls, "the powerful element of discipline."

The movie explored moral and ethical behavior and

whether or not the two are affected by race. "Our military is a reflection of our society," said Strong. "It always has been." She spoke of institutional racism being a part of life and of individuals growing through the military in spite of discrimination in life.

Strong said, "People have used the military to move up in society. We are extremely marketable, we don't look for jobs; they look for us."

Veals spoke of his personal growth and his experiences in the military, then identified these with the characters. "As I have progressed through the military I have been a little bit of all the characters," said Veals.

Jason Sampson, a junior human performance major and president of the W.E.B. DuBois history club, assessed the meaning of the movie. "You should judge people on their character," said Sampson, "and not their race."

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The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

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BLDGs #43 & #35 held a seminar, "Life After UC" that was given by their Faculty Fellows: Dr. Paula Moore and Dr. Shawanda Anderson Bldg #35 honored their Academic Super Stars at a "3.0 Congratulation Dinner!!"

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Seeking restoration, church of Latter-Day Saints

By Sean Mitchell
Panther Staff

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (also known to many as the Mormon Church, or LDS Church) is a movement that has sought to restore what they believe to be the true Christian Church to the world as Jesus intended. Those who follow the movement assert that as Jesus' apostles were killed, His true word and direction for the Church was lost. Because of this Jesus would have to restore the Church before his second coming. The man chosen to direct the re-establishment was Prophet Joseph Smith. While the LDS Church is not the only Mormon Church, it is the most famous Church for practicing Mormons and the Church has about 12 Million members.

According to the LDS Church's website at <http://mormon.org>, the Apostasy occurred

when Jesus' apostles were killed and when fellow non-apostle followers came diverted from the His truth. Soon many truths and ordinances were lost, as no one with true training under Christ was left to spread His true word. The LDS Church argues that Peter predicted the restoration in the New Testament's book of Acts 3:19-21: "[19] Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out when times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. [20] And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: [21] Whom heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all holy prophets since the world began."

In 1820 and at the age of 14, Joseph Smith (properly known as Prophet Joseph Smith to the LDS Church) saw a vision of Christ the Father and Son. According to his account, Smith was confused at the time about

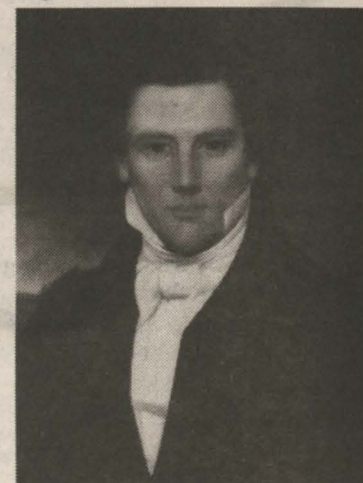
which Church to join and asked for divine help. While sitting under a tree, the young Smith believed he saw Them and They advised him not join any of the Churches of the time. Instead, Smith was told it was his duty to restore the church as Christ had intended. Smith then came to the realization that the true priesthood had been absent from the world since the last Apostles were killed, so in Smith claimed 1829 Christ gave him priesthood authority and the next year Smith restored the true Church as it had been intended. Much later and after Smith's death in 1844, Brigham Young was chosen to lead the church. Because many in the Christian community viewed the Church's beliefs as off base and heretical, Mormons faced so much prejudice that Young led the followers of the movement from many places in northern U.S. until the followers arrived in

what is now Salt Lake City, Utah, in the West, where the Church is still headquartered today.

Many basic beliefs of the LDS Church reflect many the same beliefs of those of many other Christian denominations. To Mormons of the LDS Church, Christ is "our" Heavenly Father, his death redeems us from death by Resurrection, people must repent to be saved from sin, people must be baptized, and other similarities exist. However, some key differences are stated as follows: understanding that the true priesthood authority exist solely in the LDS Church, that the "New Jerusalem" (Zion) will be built in the American continent, that Christ has, does, and always will reveal to people, as well as understanding that there are two sacred text: The Bible and The Book of Mormon. According to the tradition, the Book of Mormon verifies and

strengthens the Bible. Depending on the source, the Mormon movement, including the LDS Church, may be listed along with or separate from other Christian denominations.

Further readings www.mormon.org and en.wikipedia.org.



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Letter to the Editor

Can you just go for info?

Greek fraternities and sororities were established on the basis of upholding the founding principles as well as to uplift and promote the community. They were made to live out ideals and promote brotherhood and sisterhood. So are inquiries on the fraternity and sorority life a false plan of action? For instance, if an incoming freshman, or any college student for that matter, attends seminars and programs of several different organizations, should that student be persecuted by one because they wanted to know more about all? As a member of the Divine Nine, I completely disagree with the previous asked question. As an incoming freshman at Prairie View A&M University I was led to believe this misconception. There could have been a really informative seminar about to be held, but the only problem was that if I attended that seminar, I would immediately be labeled as a prospect. By being in a fraternity myself I do understand the importance of loyalty, but loyalty can be tested in various ways.

It is no secret that Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta have the largest intake among the sororities, but how harming is it for a young lady to attend seminars held by both? She is merely seeking out information on either the subject of the seminar or the organizations' sisterhood. But if standing in line for one means being ridiculed by the other how then shall a "prospect" find out what the individual chapters stand for? A friend of mine, from Oklahoma State University stated, "On our campus, students can attend seminars from any organization, but it is not until you begin to differentiate that you receive somewhat of a label."

I feel that Greek

life on our campus has taken an extreme turn. One student, who wants to remain anonymous stated, "The only difference between a fraternity or sorority and a violent gang is that the fraternities and sororities have a constitution." That student went on to say that Greeks fight for territory, bragging rights, membership. What baffles me is that this student didn't mention fight for service, fight for humanity, or fight for the advancement of black people.

My friend from Oklahoma State also stated that on her campus the main benefit of attending several organizational seminars is the relationships that the students develop with each other and the organizations. I believe this is where unity comes into play. Because students supported all the other organizations before becoming Greek, once they become Greek that ongoing support will continue.

That is one thing that I do commend University College for accomplishing. In my freshman building I met other students that I have developed a respect for regardless of what organization they decided to join. Some of us have become Alphas, Omegas, Sigmas, and even KKPsi, and it's because of this interaction that we have respect for each other. Why is it so difficult for Greek fraternities and sororities to mingle in that manner?

In closing, I challenge other Greeks to mingle and enjoy the company of not only prospects of your organizations but reach out to all young men and young women to bring back the unity and live out all of our principles. This would only make for a better university and a better NPHC.

Anonymous

My son's killer hasn't been caught

I am the mother of Byron Bryant, the murdered Hampton University student.

First, I want to say that I applaud the journalists who contribute to Black College Wire. Without your diligence, a lot of the information about crime and other issues would never get to the college public. To the Hampton University journalist who contributed the article about the crimes at Hampton ("Knowing Campus Crime Stats Heightens Our Awareness," March 27), I want to say don't forget about my son.

Although we know the name of the Hampton student who allegedly committed this senseless crime, the Hampton police, New York police and the federal marshals have yet to apprehend Jihad Amir Ramadan. Only 19 years old and supported by his parents, no one seems to know where he is.

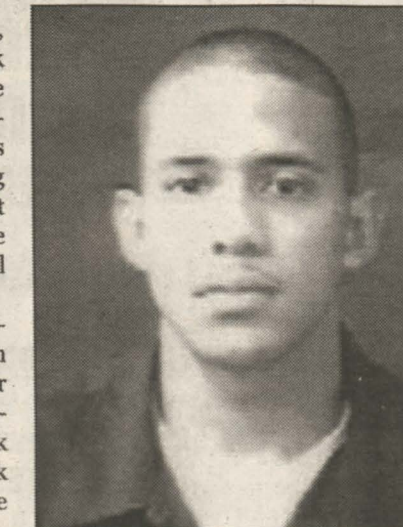
Unfortunately, the issue of violence on college campuses continues daily (i.e. hazing, rape). Because this is a daily occurrence, we need to work daily to combat crime. We need to explore the root causes (immorality, gangsta rap cul-

ture, excessive freedoms, etc.), and we need to work out a plan. Just look at the lives that have been destroyed by these senseless decisions. People young and old need to know that no decision that you make voluntarily is ever a small one.

I feel for the parents of those involved in hazing, but at least their sons are alive. Everyone should read the book "The Covenant With Black America," especially the third covenant, "Correcting the System of Unequal Justice." The stats listed are only the ones reported, so we can probably add to those stats.

I am challenging young people to take charge and do something, because unfortunately, as I was told by Tavis Smiley's camp, his job is only to open up dialogue. Talk is informative, but cheap.

We need to take back our yesterdays, when our fight was over things that mattered, like equal opportunity, like discrimination, like false imprison-



Fugitive: Jihad Amir Ramadan remains at large.

ment, like slavery. Now we're just majoring in mediocrity. And unfortunately, things that commonly affected the impoverished of our community, such as crime and hopelessness, have trickled up. We are losing a lot of ground, and losing young black men and women in the process.

Cheryl Pitts-Bryant
Houston

The Martinsville Seven, a true story

After reading some of the many stories and editorials about the unfortunate event at Duke University ("N. Carolina Central Rallies Behind Alleged Victim of Duke Team Rape," March 30), I was compelled to write and share with your readers the story of the Martinsville Seven.

In 1949, in Martinsville, Va., seven black men were accused of raping a 32-year-old married white woman. Within 30 hours of the alleged rape, all had signed written confessions. Within 11 days, all seven were tried, convicted and sentenced to death by all-white juries. Two were tried during the same trial. The youngest was only 17 years old and the rest, except for one, were in their early twenties. The oldest was a 37-year-old man with a wife and five beautiful children.

Although no white man in Virginia had ever been executed for rape, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case, and President Truman refused

to grant clemency. Thurgood Marshall, then a young NAACP lawyer, helped represent the Seven. By 1951, all seven had been executed in Richmond, Va. Around the world, they became known as the Martinsville Seven.

This case was instrumental in helping change the rape laws of this great country.

So, no matter what the outcome, if some of these white, Duke athletes did indeed rape this mother and exotic dancer, they will NEVER face the death penalty, thanks to the Martinsville seven. By the way, three of the Seven were Hairstons, relatives of mine. I was born and raised in Martinsville, Va. And for the record, the true story of the Seven has never



been told. Thanks for listening and may God bless and protect our children and soldiers everywhere.

Pamela A. Hairston

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PURPLE & GOLD POLL

Were the PV choice awards based on politics or the opinions of the student body?
&
What was your favorite part of the show?



Overall, the student body voted and got involved, and it was a really nice event. Favorite part of the show: the girl who sung by herself.
-Meyosha Roy
Sophomore
Psychology



Half of the people who won were popular, so it reflects the student body. Favorite part of the show: the dancing.
-"Supa Dave"
Sophomore
Health/Human Performance



Political, and obviously a popularity contest. The performances were good, I liked the dancing.
-TaCho Richard
Junior
Health/Human Performance



I feel the PVCA reflected the student body, because everyone I voted for won. Favorite part of the show: Forte' and their song "Late Night Show."
-Derrika Shelton
Sophomore
Nursing

David Butler



Lady Panthers declaw GSU Tigers

Meyers' all-around effort aids in series sweep

Panther News Service

Sophomore Jannell Meyers had a career day on the diamond with three home runs in addition to pitching a three-hit shutout in Prairie View's doubleheader sweep over Grambling State University on Saturday afternoon.

In game one, the Lady Panthers belted out 15 hits in a 7-1 victory over the Lady Tigers. Prairie View opened the contest on fire, taking a 4-0 lead after one inning of play and never looked back from that point. The Lady Panther offense continued to sizzle with runs in the second, third and

fourth innings en route to the victory. Meyers and catcher Amberly Fuller paced the Lady Panther offense with three hits each. Freshman pitcher Analisa Gonzales improved to 9-10 on the season while GSU's Stephanie Pearson (0-12) remained winless.

Prairie View broke open a tight contest with a three-run fifth inning to capture a 5-0 victory in their regular season finale. Second baseman Sheena Robertson's RBI double broke a scoreless tie in the third inning. Meyers upped Prairie View's lead to 2-0 with a solo home run in the fourth frame and broke the game open in the

following inning with a three-run shot to right center for a 5-0 lead.

Meyers (5-8) finished the contest 2-for-2 with four RBIs along with four strikeouts. She finished Saturday's doubleheader batting 5-of-6 with five hits, six RBIs and three home runs.

Prairie View (15-28, 11-13 SWAC), winners in 15 of its past 20 contests after an 0-23 start, advances to postseason play on Thursday, April 27, in the SWAC Tournament. The championship will take place in Itta Bena, Miss. on the campus of Mississippi Valley State University.



Photo by David Butler

On a roll: Lady Panthers celebrate another victory.

Sports writers & photographers

The Panther is seeking sports enthusiast with a talent for writing or taking pictures to become staff members.

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The new face of Panther basketball

Byron Rimm II named head coach

Panther News Service

Byron Rimm II has been named head coach of the Prairie View A&M University men's basketball program. Rimm, who has a vast coaching background that spans from the junior college to the NCAA Division I level, recently served as an assistant coach for the Panthers during the 2005-06 season.

A native of Pensacola, Fla., Rimm played junior college ball on the West Coast at Ventura College in Ventura, Calif. He served as team captain on the school's 1995-96 state championship team before wrapping up his playing career at California State University, Los Angeles.

He remained on the West Coast and began his ascension up the coaching ladder by serving as an assistant coach at Pasadena City College and Chaffey Community College from 1997-2000. After several years on the junior college level, Rimm moved to California State University, San Bernardino, in 2000 and helped guide the team to a No. 3 ranking in NCAA Division II. He spent only a season at UCB before assuming the reigns as the head women's basketball coach at Texas College in Tyler, Texas.

Heading a program that didn't offer athletic scholarships, Rimm rolled up his sleeves and posted a 20-12 record in his inaugural season - the best record

in school history. After one season at Texas College, Rimm returned to the men's side and accepted a position as head coach of Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas.

While at Jarvis, Rimm made an immediate impact in his first season and guided the Bulldogs to a second place finish in the Red River Athletic Conference and their first NAIA National Tournament appearance in more than three decades. As a result of JCC's success on the court that season, Rimm was selected as co-coach of the year and had two players earn all-conference honors in addition to earning votes for the NAIA national poll. Rimm capped off his career at JCC by leading them to two appearances in the Red River Athletic Conference Tournament and recorded victories over two nationally ranked programs before moving on to Prairie View A&M for one season.

A 1999 graduate of California State University, Los Angeles, Rimm received a bachelor of arts degree in liberal studies. He obtained a master's degree in education from American InterContinental University in 2005.

Rimm is married to the former Poornima Swaminathan of Yorba Linda, Calif. and holds memberships in the National Association of Basketball Coaches and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

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PVAMU men's tennis set to defend crown

Panther News Service

The Prairie View A&M University men's tennis team returns to Alexandria, La. with aspirations of defending its 2005 SWAC Tennis Championship. The tournament starts Saturday, April 22 and concludes Sunday, April 23 at City Park Tennis Complex.

Prairie View enters the tournament as the second seed from the SWAC West. The Panthers open up play on Saturday morning with a match-up against Jackson State, who they defeated 7-0 in March. A victory over the Tigers would pair the Panthers against Alcorn State in the second round and set-up a rematch of last year's SWAC Tournament final.

"Our work is cut out for us but I feel pretty confident about our chances against Jackson State," said Cochran. "If we play the way we know how to play as a unit then we'll have a great chance to defeat Alcorn State."

If the Panthers aspire to capture back-to-back titles, a

feat that hasn't been done since the team won seven consecutive titles from 1964-1970, Cochran said several things have to happen.

"The doubles point is the key if we're going to win our matches," stated Cochran. "I'm going to make an adjustment to the lineup but everybody should play relaxed. I feel that if we get the doubles point against Jackson State we'll be in good position to win. We'll have to do the same if we advance to play Alcorn State so we can go into singles play with a good feeling."

By entering the tournament as the defending SWAC champion, one would think the Panthers will have the bull's-eye on their back. However, Cochran thinks otherwise due to the fact that Texas Southern enters the tournament as the favorite.

"There's not a lot of pressure on us," said Cochran. "If we play solid, smart tennis, then the matches will go our way," said Cochran. "If we go out and make a lot of errors then

we won't advance."

Another factor that will figure into the Panthers' postseason chances is their ability to play as a team. Cochran said he needs a total effort from everybody in his lineup.

"Everybody has to step up," said Cochran. "It's going to take a consolidated effort of six guys to get the job done. Andy (Narido) and Nicolas (Bateman) definitely have to come through along with our number four, five and six players. If we can get Kudza's (Chiriza) point at the number one spot, that would be a big asset because it would break the opposing team down and cause them to lose steam."

Cochran feels confident about his team's experience going into the championship. He said winning the conference last season should pay dividends going into the tournament.

"Being experienced will definitely help because we know how to play under pressure," he said. "Texas Southern hasn't been there so the pressure could break them down. Alcorn State has been there and they've im-

proved from last year."

Another obstacle the Panthers will face during their SWAC title defense is that they'll have to play an extra game in order to capture the championship. Last season, the Panthers earned a number one seed and had a bye in the first round.

"Some people say 'the more rest the better it is' but I look at it as the more matches you play, the better you are because you are tested, ready and know what adjustments to make," Cochran said. "Yes, rest is good but there's really no rest for anyone at this point. This is it, it's all or nothing."

Prairie View should be well-prepared for the tournament since the Panthers faced some of the top talent in college tennis earlier this season.

"Our schedule started out heavy with several ranked teams such as Texas Tech, SMU, Tulsa and Rice," Cochran said. "In addition, we also played several Division II teams who were good and suffered some tough losses at the end. We did beat Lamar during our trip to

Tulsa which happened for the first time in school history."

After a brutal non-conference slate, the Panthers had little trouble once SWAC play began. During the SWAC West Round-up, the Panthers went 3-1 with their lone loss coming to conference rival Texas Southern. After an impressive round-up, the Panthers stepped back into non-conference action and battled No. 17 ranked Texas A&M, Texas-Pan American and St. Edward's, which is ranked 14th in NCAA Division II. The Panthers went 0-3 during that stretch but went down fighting with 4-3 losses to St. Edward's and UTPA.

Prairie View stepped back into conference play and picked up right where they left off during the SWAC East West Round-ups. They went 4-1 during the round-ups with the eastern division's number one seed Alcorn State handing them their only loss.

"Our success in conference play was due to our tough, non-conference schedule," said Cochran.

Lady Panther tennis earns berth to SWAC championships

Panther News Service

The Prairie View A&M University Lady Panther tennis team earned a berth to the 2006 Southwestern Athletic Conference tennis tournament scheduled to take place April 20-23 in Alexandria, La.

Prior to the 2003 season, the SWAC allowed all 10 of its teams to participate in postseason play. A year later, the conference scaled back the tournament and took the top three teams from each division. This marks the first time since the format change that the Lady Panthers have advanced to postseason play.

"The goal going into the season was to qualify for the SWAC tournament and we've hit the mark," said head women's coach John Cochran. "We didn't focus as much on wins and losses in non-conference, but in the conference we wanted to defeat at least two teams to qualify for the tournament."

Playing a non-conference schedule that featured three teams ranked among the top 75 in the country, the Lady Panthers began the season with a slow start by dropping nine of their first 10 matches which included five shutouts. However,

once conference began they hit their stride and won two of the next four matches, which ultimately clinched a postseason berth.

"We had a slow start because we played several Division I teams that were nationally ranked," stated Cochran. "We peaked at the right time when we entered SWAC play because we began to play well as a team. We finished the SWAC West round-up with a 2-2 record and beat Grambling State for the second time this season to qualify for the conference tournament. It was a great feeling because the ladies were confident that they were not going to lose prior to the match."

After reaching their goal during the SWAC West Round-up, the Lady Panthers ventured to the SWAC East-West Round-up and began to peak as a team. The Lady Panthers opened with back-to-back losses but reeled off three consecutive wins to close out the round-ups. Even though the team dropped its first two matches to the top two teams in the East (Alabama A&M and Alcorn State), Cochran was encouraged by his team's play.

"The team had a great chance to beat Alabama A&M

but faltered after winning the doubles point. Then we lost another tough match against Alcorn State," he said. "Despite that, we came out 3-2 against the SWAC East and it marked the best run we've had as a team in conference play."

With the SWAC tournament on the horizon, the Lady Panthers have a legitimate chance to claim the program's first-ever SWAC title if several things come to fruition.

"We have a tough road ahead of us because we open up against Alcorn State and then we would have to play Southern if we win," said Cochran. "I'm very optimistic about my team's chances because we played neck-and-neck with both of them during the regular season and had a chance to win. Now, everybody has to step up. We can't afford any breakdowns or letdowns because it's a single elimination tournament and every point counts."

Cochran's roster features a mix of veterans and several newcomers. However, he points to the freshmen trio of Nicole Banks, Melanie Brown and Charlie Cooksey as reasons why the Lady Panthers have turned the corner.

"These three freshmen

have made a difference because they've shown the ability to win clutch matches," Cochran said. "The freshmen have put their stamp on the program by getting the job done. Brown had an impressive SWAC West round-up in which she did not lose a match. She has provided consistency in the middle of our lineup and has motivated the rest of the team to do more. Cooksey has played well in both conference and non-conference match-ups. She recorded the only win for us against LSU and had a very good match against Texas Tech, while Banks won several tough matches at the number five spot and has been competitive all season long."

No matter how the season ends, Cochran said the foundation has been laid for the future and he looks forward to contending for SWAC titles year-in and year-out.

"We'll definitely build on this year but my main focus in the future is to provide more depth for the team because we were hit hard by injuries this season," he said. "I plan on adding four to five new players next season and that'll give the ladies a chance to rest and not be forced to play in every match."

Artest suspended one game for throwing forearm

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) --

Ron Artest of the Sacramento Kings was suspended one game without pay for hitting Manu Ginobili of the San Antonio Spurs in the head with his forearm.

The suspension was announced Monday by the league. Artest will miss Game 2 of the Western Conference series on Tuesday. He didn't play in the postseason last year after an early season suspension for a brawl in Detroit while playing for Indiana.

"I'm disappointed Ronnie's suspended because he's a competitor and I want to see him do well," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "Even though we don't have him anymore, I pull for any guys that have helped us win games in the past. He was a great player, great competitor for us, so I don't wish anything bad on anybody."

The contact occurred in the third period of the Spurs' 122-88 win Saturday night against the visiting Kings.

Artest was hit in the mouth by Ginobili's elbow on the game's opening possession. The cut inside his upper lip required three stitches.

Cover Girl: The price people pay for popularity



By LaCheryl E. Whitlow
L/H and A/E Editor

She is the most wanted, the most envied, and every other person that passes by her on the sidewalk knows her name. Her phone constantly rings, she has only associated with other well-known people on campus, and everyone wants to be in her clique. Beautiful, smart, and extremely well liked by all of her peers, only

there is just one thing missing to make her V.I.P status complete...she is very empty inside. Her soul is jaded and despite her tons of friends no one can feel her void inside. What does a girl like her do to keep from falling apart? She disguises it by ensuring that her reputation remains at top-notch status. She is a cover girl and this is the price she pays for popularity.

It is utterly amazing and pathetic to see how some people on this campus will sell their souls to the devil himself just to be known. Whether he or she is known for being the greatest athlete at Prairie View or a woman of very easy virtue, it's sad to see that a lot of our peers willingly accept the title just to be notorious. This factor is even more appalling to know that the thirsty desire to be popular is sometimes a cover up for really wanting to be loved and accepted.

All creatures want to be loved or nurtured in some way and this need is as natural to human beings as the appetite for food and water. However, degrading who you are as a person and compromising your morals to simply get people's attention is not worth the effort.

Surprisingly, (as a part of what I refer to as the PV culture) many students hide behind what they have conceptualized mentally as what is acceptable. It hurts my heart to see people who want to be part of associations, clubs, or organizations so bad that they will do anything. Not to mention that half of those people are only doing it for the benefits and pluses.

Yet wanting to be known can be a very dangerous position because you are cast into the spotlight automatically. Some people spend so much

of their time trying to disassociate themselves from the "little people" or the people that (in their eyes) are not as important that they never quite reach the status of popularity that they want.

Then life throws them a real curve ball and the very same people they spent their time trying to impress leave them standing in the shadows of love. This type of thing happens all the time and the very same people that you stepped over are the ones that you will have to go back to for a helping hand. For instance, I personally know many people who would not have been in organizations (no need to point the finger) if it were not for a friend that helped them out and now they do not even speak to that person because that person is not in their "clique."

Overall thinking that you have arrived is not healthy

for your psyche. If you had to jump through hoops and do magic tricks just because you wanted to be known please remember that you can cover it up but you cannot knock it out. Some people are just well liked because of their personalities and they don't have to try to be popular, they just are, but for the other 78 percent of the BIG MEs and LITTLE YOUs on this campus being popular is not going to fill that void of wanting to be loved and accepted in your heart; only you can give that to you. If you do happen to become ever so popular because of the clubs, societies, etc, that you join then so be it, but do not let the popularity be all you become. If you're only known because of what your a part of you're not really popular...you're just blockheaded because you had to pay for.

The power of belief



By Dr. Victor Pendelton
Faculty Contributor

There is an abundance of scientific evidence indicating that our thoughts can affect our health. For example, stress can cause rapid heart beat, hyperventilation, increased blood pressure, increased blood sugar, and movement of the blood from the body's core to its periphery. Stress can also bring about measurable changes in the body's immunological defenses. Anger also affects our body. People with Type-A personality, who also tend to be hostile and angry, have an increased risk for heart disease.

The power of belief is demonstrated by the placebo effect. The placebo effect refers to the fact that a patient's physical symptoms can be reduced or eliminated by an otherwise ineffective treatment, simply based on their belief that they will get better. This is a medical fact: one out of three people will get better taking medicine that they think will make them better, even when there is no scientific reason why the medicine should help.

The placebo response is so common, and so reliable, that new drugs are almost always tested against placebo: tested against sugar pills. The active ingredient is the person's strong belief that the pill will make them well. One common misconception about placebo is that it won't affect physical symptoms or physical pain. Placebo can not only improve physical symptoms, but patients are likely to experience physical side effects that they have been told may accompany the medication.

Such is the power of our mind: the power of what we believe. The implications of this

may be obvious. In people with diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, the above stress reactions are particularly harmful. Proper management of stress can result in a healthier immune system. There are ways to reduce the amount of stress we experience, even when we cannot change the stressful circumstances of our daily lives and relationships. These methods involve relaxation exercises and changes in the way we interpret our world.

We can use our beliefs and expectations to construct our reality. If we expect the worse, that is often what we get: this is referred to as the self-fulfilling prophesy.

If we don't believe in ourselves we may not try very hard and thereby bring about the expected outcome. On the other hand if we believe that we will succeed, if we repeat positive encouragement to ourselves instead of negative self-talk, we are more likely to succeed. Choose to believe in yourself and to expect to succeed because we often perform to our expectations.

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University Village annual pageant attracts dozens of students

By Chantel Gage
Panther Staff

Students gathered at the MSC auditorium on Tuesday, April 25 for the second annual Mr. and Miss University Village Scholarship Pageant.

The former winners, Danielle Bush and Brandon Huey, hosted the pageant. The contestants were asked to compete against each other in various categories such as: active wear, talent, formal wear and question and answer.

In the active wear portion each contestant wore an assemble associated with a sport. Russell Hutchison and Christopher Bonds, tied for the male winners of best active wear and Ashley McDonald won for the women.

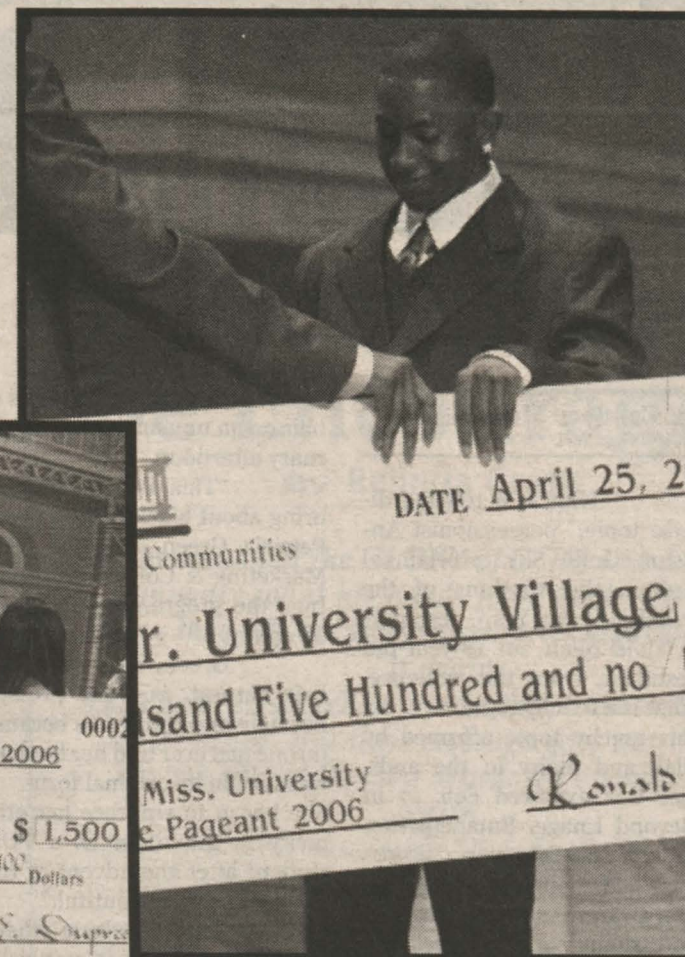
The talent competition ranged from singing to inspirational speaking. Dadrian Epting won by singing his rendition of *I need you now* by Smokey Norfolk. Ashley McDonald, mimed to an inspirational song and won for the women. In formal wear, Tynique Parker won for the women,

and Ron Bernal for the men.

The winners of the overall pageant were Christopher Bonds, a sophomore electrical engineer major and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity for the men and Ashley McDonald, a sophomore criminal justice major won for the women. Both were also the winners of the question and answer portion.

"I feel excited and shocked. I did not think I was going to win because there was a lot of competition. This just lets me know that if you put a lot of work into something you will receive your goal," said Christopher Bonds. Ashley McDonald said "Without former Miss PV, Brandy Byers, I would not have been able to gain the confidence I needed to win. I am surprised, greatly, and the money couldn't have come at a better time. Winning this event means to me

that even an average tomboy like myself, can become a queen."



Mardi Gras PV Style: Christopher Bonds and Ashley McDonald take the stage as Mr. and Miss University Village.

Life after a breakup; maybe it wasn't meant to be

By Frank Cage
Panther Staff

Before attending college relationships were usually easy. In elementary school notes were given to girls that said, "Will you go with me, yes or no," hitting each other and blushing afterwards, and exchanging favorite candy. In junior high, rumors were exchanged saying that some guy liked a girl (and vice versa), holding hands through the hall, and meeting each other at the locker between classes. In high school, necklaces with rings attached were worn around a girl's neck, couples would come and leave school together, and the pre-marital pictures at prom were taken. Although break-ups happen throughout all these stages of life, why does it seem that college break-ups are worse?

When high-school couples have to make the transition

from the pre-college life into a new phase that will open the doors to meeting new people, usually it is understood that a breakup may happen, which softens the blow a little. What happens when a student meets a person in college or continuing a long-term relationship from high school and a breakup occurs? What could cause such a change if the couple obviously loves each other and seem to be moving in the direction of marital bliss?

Quinlan Motley, a 22-year-old senior communications major, says that when a relationship begins to go downhill it's because the girl has cheated.

"Everyone

thinks that the males cheat all the time, but really it's the female who cheats first." Motley continues to

say that the relationship takes a turn for the worst when the male cheats to protect his feelings and the girl can't take it. "Girls are the ones who cheat and males are just the ones who respond."

Monique Guilory, a senior communications major, says that she hasn't had a breakup in about five years, but the few she had, the guy broke up with her because she wouldn't sleep with them.

"Normally the guy would break up with me, but afterwards I would just move on and deal with my life stress free."

When all the sand has settled to the bottom of the hour-glass and both

people agree that the best thing to do is to move on with their separate lives, Tamara Richardson, a 22-year-old senior, said it's best just to be an adult about the situation.

"If the downfall of the relationship was because of cheating, don't become childish hiding in bushes trying to catch someone and keep going back; be an adult about it and think about maybe that person wasn't for you." Richardson adds that "you don't have to jump from one relationship right into another. Sometimes you have to know how to be alone and love yourself before you love another."

Relationships happen, and sometimes they are ended with a broken heart instead of wedding bells. Instead of taking it as a hardship that has come along your path, breathe it in as a lesson learned. Many times relationship's downfall is not the result of not being right for someone, but not knowing who you are before committing.



The cultural significance of hair

Panel discussion at Virginia Union has students talking about the controversy of black hair

By Candace Moore
Black College Wire

"Hair is a touchy, diverse topic," percussionist Ancestor Gold Sky proclaimed through the rhythms of the melodic beats. "Yes," responded Tiaja Bilah, an 18-year-old freshman, from the audience. "That is a touchy topic." This touchy topic affirmed by Bilah and many in the audience was explored Feb. 17 in "Beyond Image, Emancipation through Self-Discovery," a program addressing issues of cultural awareness through hair in professional society, in self-expression and in beauty.

The interactive discussion, held in Coburn Chapel on the Richmond, Va., campus, attracted about 75 students, faculty and local citizens wearing locs, perms, Afros, weaves, wigs

and other textures and styles of hair on an unusually warm February afternoon.

"This is a chance to bring about black culture," said Patricia Green, CEO of WPG Marketing & Communications, Inc., the program's production company.

Green, who wears her hair natural, said she pressed her hair into the 1960s because no one had ever told her her hair was nice in its original form. She began to embrace her ethnicity in the 1970s as a VUU student after the advent of the slogan "black is beautiful." "Now we have a culture where we redefine what is natural," she said. "It is seen through music videos and popular culture."

In a survey of 152 black female students at Virginia Union by five psychology majors at the university, 67 percent

agreed that hair plays an important role in the lives of African American women.

The dialogue featured a renowned panel including Grace Blake, executive producer of Spike Lee's movie "School Daze"; Yvette Smalls, producer of the award-winning 1998 documentary "Hair Stories" and stylist to such celebrities as singer Eric Benet and poet Sonia Sanchez; Caprice Jackson-Garrett, co-creator of Nappy Collectibles, a line of wearables, accessories and novelty items; and Ancestor Gold Sky, percussionist for Stevie Wonder and Patti LaBelle. "Growing locs was the most liberating experience of my life," she said. "It was a transforming journey. I started one way and came out totally different on the other side."

Although Jana received self-affirmation by locating her hair, she

has been asked to cut her locs in her professional life. "Crossing that line is the hardest thing ever," she said of facing that prospect. "I'm here to say know what you're getting into, understand what you're doing and how it's going to affect you in the future." She chose to keep her locs. In fact, she wrote a letter to one of her potential employers stating that she thought it was unfair for them to give her an ultimatum.

Jackson-Garrett, co-creator of "I'm happy, I'm nappy" collectibles, said she had spent time in South American countries and in Paris. While in these places she said she "felt a freedom for beauty" because foreigners did not focus on the same stereotypes -- emphasizing hair -- as Americans. "They embraced me for who I was, not who they wanted me to be," she

said.

"I'm promoting healing and self-awareness in a time where rejection [of natural hair] is a major proponent in this society," she said. Gold Sky spoke upon about natural hair from a man's point of view. He said many European women ask him, "Why don't African American women like to wear their natural hair?"

His response caused the most dialogue in the audience when he stated, "I can only reply because you," African American women, "want to look like them."

Said Blake, the producer, "It's about time we start looking at who we are as people. We are a beautiful people no matter if we have straight hair, nappy hair or a bald head."

Events for April 27-May 3

Thursday, 4/27	Friday, 4/28	Monday, 5/1	Wednesday, 5/3
Student Health Advisory 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. MSC-204	Classic Dance Ensemble 9 a.m. - 11:55 p.m. MSC-111	Course Review Day Classes must convene and instructors will prepare students for Final Exams	Study Day for Exams
Classic Dance Ensemble 9 a.m. - 11:55 p.m. MSC-111	Delta Sigma Theta 4 p.m. - 11 p.m. MSC	Mr. PVAMU 12 p.m. - 10 p.m. MSC-111	STUDY DAY Office of Testing 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. NSB-A101
Academic & Student Affairs 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. NSB101	Army ROTC 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. MSC-204		HUB 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. MSC-204
Delta Sigma Theta 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. WJN	Alpha Lambda Omega 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. UC40	Tuesday, 5/2 Last Class Day	
Alpha Kappa Alpha 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. NSB-103	Saturday, 4/29 Office of Testing 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. NSBA101	Last Day to Withdraw from the University (from all courses) for the Spring 2006 Semester	
Phi Mu Alpha 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. MSC	Financial Aid 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. MSC-111	Course Review Day [Classes must convene and instructors will prepare students for Final Exams]	
History Club 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. ArchA243	Sunday, 4/30 Delta Sigma Theta 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. MSC-111	Mr. PVAMU Scholarship Pageant 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. MSC-111	
Omega Psi Phi 6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. HBTRH	SGA 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Alpha Kappa Alpha 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. MSC	
Karnation Kourt 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. MSC-204		Mr. PVAMU 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. MSC-201	
Sigma Gamma Rho 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. WRB-204		Classic Dance Ensemble 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. WJG	
Alpha Lambda Omega 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. JPAFC		Tau Beta Sigma/Kappa Kappa Psi 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. MSC-204	
Delta Sigma Theta 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. NSBA101			
Omega Psi Phi 7:10 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Water fountain			
Alpha Phi Omega 7:25 p.m. - 10 p.m. NSB-104			



Panther Poetry Lounge

Be Encouraged

By Relinda Grant

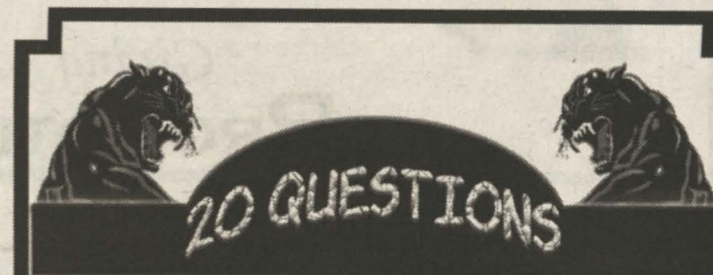
The heavens tell the GLORY of GOD, and the skies announce what his hands have made. Day after day they tell the story; night after night they tell it again.

They have no speech or words; they have no VOICE to be heard. But their message goes out through all the WORLD; their words go everywhere on earth.

There is a song that says "If I don't PRAISE the LORD the ROCKS will cry out." GOD WILL GET HIS GLORY!

When we open our eyes each day we see the GLORY of GOD. His GLORY is all around us beginning with the AIR we breath, the RAIN that quenches the earth's thirst, the MOON, SUN and STARS give us light in the darkness.

We are GOD's most PRECIOUS creation and we are OBLIGATED to WORSHIP and give GOD the utmost GLORY. Take a moment and THINK about what GOD has done for YOU



1. What scholar kept passing gas at the PV Choice Awards?
2. What AKA can't spell?
3. Since finals is coming will she take advantage of the library's tutorial center?
4. Which Bruh is not potty trained?
5. Is he going to show out his stain?
6. How many people got tired of "all Hail Rho Theta" interrupting the PV Choice Awards?
7. Was it really necessary since half of them aren't even recognized on campus?
8. Which P.A.L.S member has the C.L.A.P.?
9. What's the requirement for that?
10. Does the bag that Omega carries what he uses to carry his needle and thread?
11. What faculty member was so excited being nominated for an award at the university?
12. What pregnant freshman has a picture of her sonogram on her facebook account?
13. Did the Kappas really have to get drunk to get loose?
14. How many Zetas were at the Deltas' cake cutting ceremony waiting to eat?
15. Does Phi Beta really have the best athlete?
16. How many people thought that someone else should have won best female vocalist?
17. What fellow co-worker was hating on Ms. Pat at the PV Choice Awards?
18. Did they not know she is Prairie View royalty?
19. Who is ready for the year to be over?
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. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther.

Congratulations to all the P.V. Choice award winners!

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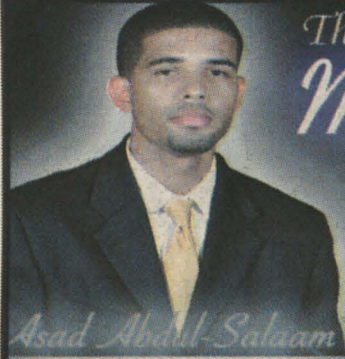
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NO DEPOSIT!!!

E-mail The Panther



panther@pvamu.edu

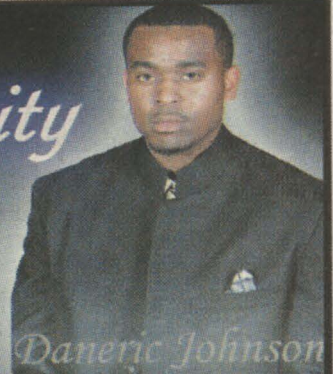


Asad Abdul-Salaam

The 20th Annual

Mr. Prairie View A&M University

Scholarship Pageant



Daneric Johnson

Discovering the Mystique



In a Prairie View Man

Tuesday, May 2, 2006 @ 7:30pm

Memorial Student Center Auditorium

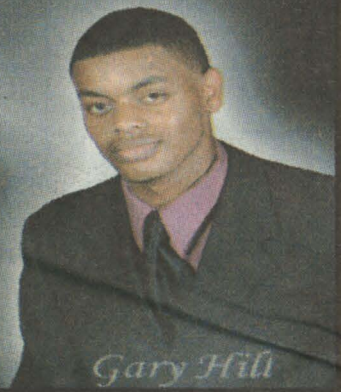
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Jermonte Henderson



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