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THE PANTHER

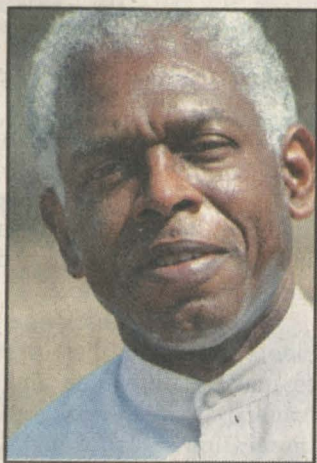
Wednesday, March 21, 2007

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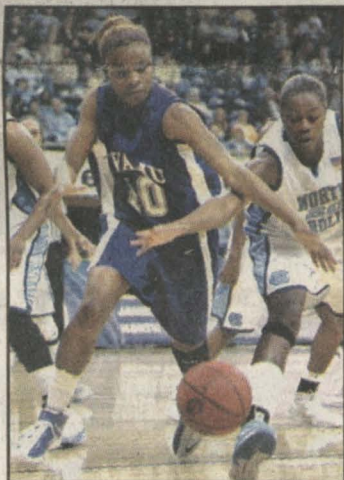
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Volume 85, Issue 16

Woman found dead in Prairie View

By Anterria Brown
News Editor

Students and residents of the surrounding community are expressing alarm over the discovery of a nude, partially dismembered body found just minutes away from the university.

The body was reportedly discovered Sunday morning, March 18, around 4:30 a.m. at the intersection of U.S. Highway 290 and James Muse Parkway.

Law enforcement officials said an autopsy was performed Monday at the Harris

County Medical Examiner's office. The evidence collected would be analyzed by the DPS Laboratory in Houston.

The officials said the victim was a white female, between the ages of 30 and 50. She was believed to be approximately 5'3 to 5'6 tall, with dark colored hair. Her eyebrows were thin and arched at the outer edges and there were two ear piercings on her right ear, and one ear piercing on her left ear. There were also signs of skin discolorations or birthmarks on various locations of her body and a visible surgical scar on the front and side of the right knee.

According to reports, the woman's hands were chopped off, her body was washed

clean, her arms were duct taped and a bag was placed over her head.

Since the news of the death reached campus, many students are taking precautionary safety measures. Freshman Tiffany Bledsoe said, "It's definitely shocking that something so gruesome could happen here. I am going to be extra careful about going out at night by myself and I'm going to be more aware of my surroundings."

Senior Aayrin Collins said, "I was very concerned when I heard the news and I wish that campus authorities would have notified students. I hope that in the future there will be extra patrols around campus and the community."

Sigmas crown new Lady of the Dove

By Anterria Brown
News Editor

Senior communications major Mary Garnett was crowned 2007-2008 Miss Lady of the Dove at a scholarship pageant held by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Thursday, March 8, in the Memorial Student Center auditorium.

The pageant was creatively themed "An Evening of Hawaiian Love" and featured seven contestants each representing a different Hawaiian Island.

The participants in the pageant were contestant # 1 freshman Dana Polk, contestant #2 senior Mary Garnett, contestant #3 senior Jessica Crumedy, contestant #4 sophomore Latasha Woodson, contestant #5 freshman Porche' Holcombe, contestant #6 freshman Aisha Hill and contestant #7 freshman Mary Bolden.

The first portion of the pageant was the introduction, in which each participant presented herself and the island she represented to the audience. Contestants wore grass skirts and bright colors to corroborate the Hawaiian theme.

The next phase of the competition was the active wear portion in which contestants showcased the latest fashions and accessories. The third phase was the talent expression. Talent acts included singing, dancing, poetry, and praise dancing.

Senior Aayrin Collins said, "The talent portion was my favorite portion of the pageant. Each contestant's act was very original and individualistic. It was obvious that they all worked really hard on their performances."

The next phase of the competition was the question and answer portion in which each contestant was given the same question, and asked to give an individual response. The last phase was the evening wear portion where contestants were escorted on stage to showcase beautiful gowns they had chosen.

As the pageant came to a close and the 2006-2007 Miss Lady of the Dove Stefanie Monroe took her last walk, the moment came that everyone had been waiting for: the announcement of the winners.

The winner for best interview was Mary Garnett who was also the winner for best active wear as well as best formal wear. The winner for best talent was Latasha Woodson. The winner for Ms. Congeniality was Mary Bolden who was also the winner for best question and answer. The winner for most ads sold was Dana Polk. The 1st runner up for the title was Aisha Hill.

Pageant Coordinator Gary Hill said, "We host this pageant to promote intelligence, scholarship, and leadership among Prairie View women. This year's pageant was a lot of hard work, but the outcome was well worth it. All the contestants did an excellent job and the competition was very close."

The pageant winner received a \$1,914 scholarship, a trophy, a crown, and a variety of other prizes.



By Evan White, The Panther



By Evan White, The Panther

Sing like a bird: Pageant winner Mary Garnett sang her way to the winner's circle (top) and pageant contestants circle the newly crowned Lady of the Dove on Thursday, March 8, at the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. scholarship pageant.

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NAA bridges gap between students, alumni

By Ashley Slayton
Panther Staff

Established in 1901 and funded by donations, the Prairie View A&M National Alumni Association is dedicated to strengthening the connection between Prairie View students and alumni.

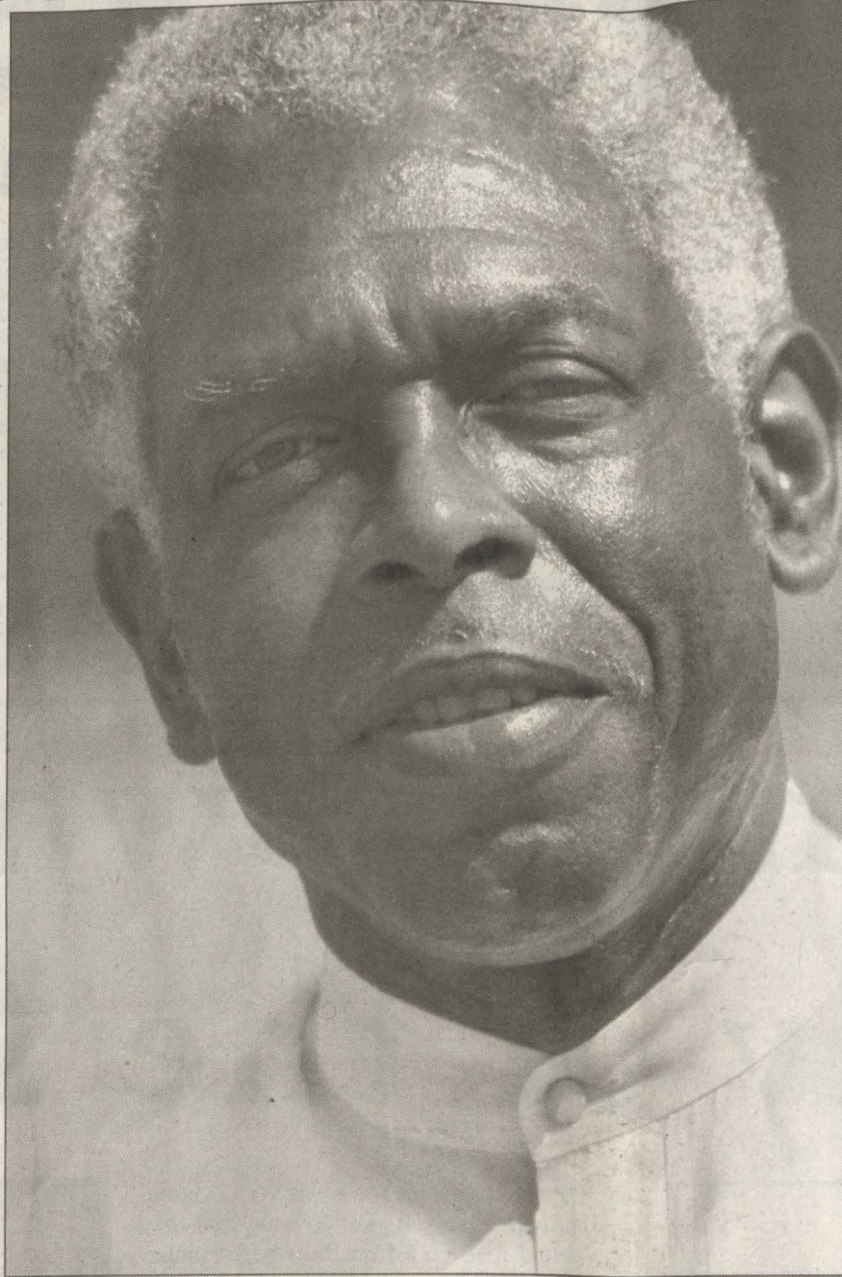
Open Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 5:30, the association is made up of more than 30 chapters and classes nationwide. Cleophus Sharp, executive director of the association, said, "The primary function of the association is to bring together graduates and students for the support of the association, the university and the students in the form of scholarships and other programs to prepare them for society."

The NAA sponsors galas, picnics, fashion shows, and seminars covering topics such as tax tips, insurance, investments and entrepreneurship. The organization also hosts an annual convention that is open to the public. This year's convention will be held in Houston at the Westin Galleria Hotel July 11 through 14. Activities planned include a town hall meeting and a gospel extravaganza featuring V. Michael Mckay.

The association has affiliate agreements with companies such as Liberty Mutual Insurance, Your Travel Biz and International Merchant Service which allow Prairie View students and alumni to access preferred rates on car, home and life insurance and travel fare.

Sharp expressed his belief about the importance of student involvement with the NAA. "The alumni association is actually a family, that's very important for your generation because the family atmosphere is not there like it used to be," said Sharp. "I think that it's important for the students today to know their family and it makes a big difference in networking."

Sharp described the various scholarships offered by the NAA, including a teachers' education scholarship and First Class Alumni



Evan White, The Panther

Serving students: Cleophus Sharp, executive director of the NAA, encourages students to get involved with the association.

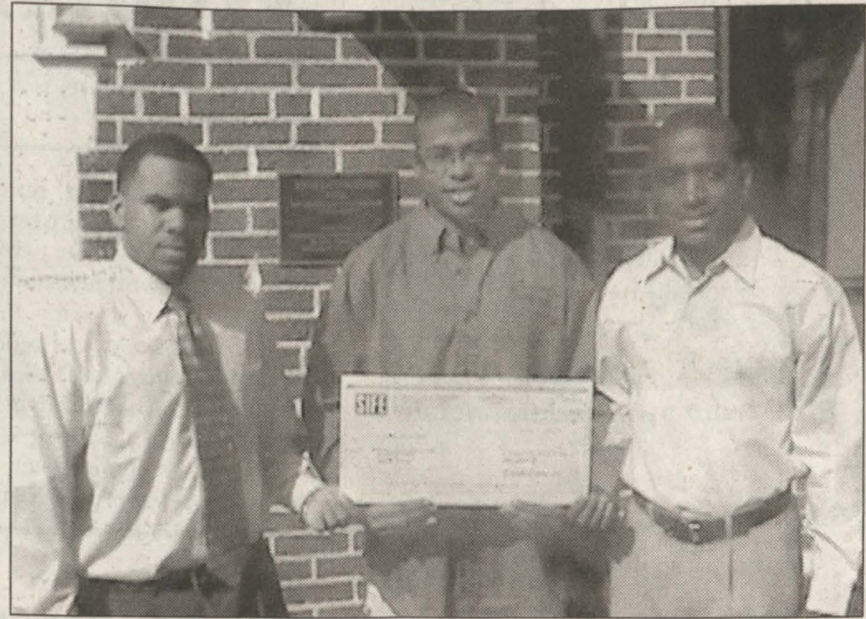
scholarship that are based on need and academic achievements. To apply for these scholarships students must contact the NAA or the Teachers' Education Office. Different chapters and classes also offer their own scholarships that students can apply for.

The NAA serves as the parent organization for the Pre-Alumni Association on campus. Originating in the late 1980s, the PAA was "created to bridge the gap between

alumni and students and to get students to participate and become involved," said Sharp. "Students don't know how successful Prairie View graduates are. Even Prairie View graduates don't know how successful Prairie View graduates are."

Sharp encouraged students to get involved, "The alumni would be glad to work with students and help develop their leadership skills."

SIFE team awarded financial literacy grant



Richard White, The Panther

Hard work pays off: SIFE members display their award after competing against nearly 400 other schools.

By Richard White
Panther Staff

Students in Free Enterprise beat out nearly 400 schools to receive a \$500 grant from HSBC Bank to undertake a financial literacy program.

The group will receive the grant in two disbursements. The first disbursement will help jump start the program, and the second will be received upon completion of the program.

SIFE member Andrew Williams said, "Receiving the grant was a great opportunity to reach out to Prairie View and the surrounding school communities." Williams believes the grant will not only help the community, but further the educa-

tion of everyone dealing with personal finances.

SIFE is built on five pillars: financial literacy, business ethics, success skills, market economics, and entrepreneurship.

SIFE's mission is to provide students the best opportunity to make a difference and develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills through learning, practicing and teaching the principles of free enterprise.

Sam Walton fellow Frederick Roberts said, "It's a milestone achievement for the SIFE team at Prairie View to be the recipient of this grant to help educate their fellow students and young people in the community of the importance of good money management."

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Sigma Tau Delta honor society inducts new members

Jerrell Allen
Panther Staff

The Upsilon chapter of Sigma Tau Delta held its induction ceremony in the conference room of Hilliard Hall Monday.

Sigma Tau Delta, which is the English honor society, inducted members who have 12 or more hours of English credit and a GPA over 3.0 in English classes.

The program opened with a brief introduction by Dr. Dijun Liu, head of the Depart-

ment of Languages and Communications. Touching on the importance of English studies in society, Liu said, "I am very happy to be around such excellent students...who will soon make for a more excellent society."

Dr. Tonya Scott swore in the seven new inductees to the organization. The new members were Ayana Young, Alvah Harell, Ashley Fields-Garcia, Nicole Renee Ray, Rhonda Phillips, Sean Mitchell, and Donald Kegler.

Dr. John Hart entertained the gathering with a poem, and

Rhonda Philips and Alvah Harell led the ceremony in singing "Imagine" by John Lennon.

Harell, an inductee from the English graduate program, spoke on the merits of Prairie View's master's program in English, saying, "The study of English has given me a passion to learn...and the opportunity to introduce the beauty and splendor of English to others."


The ceremony ended with closing remarks by Dr. D. K. Chatha, and a reception.


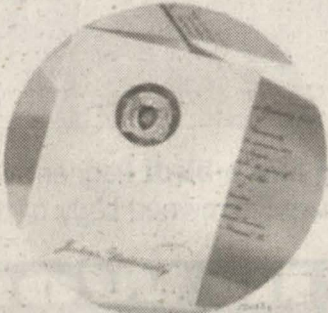



Evan White, The Panther

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PRAIRIE VIEW A & M

FAMU frat brothers plead to lesser hazing charges

By Bill Kaczor
Associated Press

Tallahassee, Fla.—Three Florida A&M University fraternity brothers avoided possible prison terms that two other defendants have received for felony hazing by pleading no contest Monday to a lesser charge in the beating of a prospective member.

Each received probation, including 30 days in the Leon County sheriff's work camp or a similar program, after entering the pleas to misdemeanor hazing. Prosecutors offered the plea deal only after two mistrials.

All five fraternity brothers were tried together. The second jury, though, convicted two of the defendants and each was sentenced to two years in prison. They are appealing.

Circuit Judge Kathleen Dekker accepted the plea agreement but warned Brian Bowman, 23, of Oakland, Calif.; Cory Gray, 23, of Montgomery, Ala., and Marcus Hughes, 21, of Fort Lauderdale, they still could get up to 11 months, 29 days in jail if they violate probation.

"I consider this crime, whether it's a felony or a misdemeanor plea, to be serious," Dekker said. "This is your chance to stay out of jail, and I hope I sincerely hope you do not blow it ... You need to be perfect citizens."

The five Kappa Alpha Psi brothers were the first people charged with violating a new state law that makes it a felony, with a five-year maximum, to commit hazing that results in serious bodily injury.

The victim, Marcus Jones, 20, of Decatur, Ga., was struck on the bottom with wooden canes and in the head with fists and boxing gloves during unauthorized initiation rites last year. A doctor operated on his buttocks to help heal a large bruise. Jones also suffered a broken ear drum.

He was not present but his father, Army Master Sgt. Mark Jones, was in the courtroom Monday.

"Whatever the court wants, whatever the court says,"

the elder Jones said afterward. He declined comment on his discussion with Assistant State Attorney Frank Allman before the prosecutor offered the plea deal.

Allman later said the Joneses had no problem with the agreement. The key factor for both sides was that two juries already had been unable to reach verdicts for the three defendants.

The first jury failed to agree on any of the five defendants after struggling with a definition for serious bodily injury after hearing conflicting medical testimony on whether the victim's injuries were serious. The term is not defined in the new law.

The second jury in December was unable to agree on Bowman, Gray and Hughes but convicted Michael Morton, 23, of Fort Lauderdale, and Jason Harris, 25, of Jacksonville, after Dekker crafted a definition of serious bodily injury.

That will be a major issue on appeal for Morton and Harris. They are being held in the county jail pending rulings by Dekker on motions for a new trial and to grant appeal bonds.

Neither jury was given the option of convicting the defendants on the lesser offense. The only choice they had was a felony conviction or acquittal.

After they were suspended by Florida A&M, Hughes enrolled at the University of Central Florida and Gray at Auburn University. Bowman, who completed graduation requirements before being arrested, will ask Florida A&M to grant him a degree now that his case has been resolved, said defense lawyer Chuck Hobbs, who represented all defendants except Harris.

Hobbs called the plea deal "bittersweet." Most importantly for the three defendants is they no longer are facing potential felony convictions and will have clean records if they successfully complete probation, he said.

"As they mature and grow, it'll be just a speed bump," Hobbs said, "as opposed to something that will have a detrimental impact on their future."

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Racist actions by a few are insensitive, unacceptable

A recent "MLK Day party" put on by a few students at Tarleton State University and a "blackface video" posted by a former Texas A&M University student have brought shame and disappointment to the entire Texas A&M System, our leadership and our individual universities. The defense of these incidents has been muted and the apologies have been profuse, but these hurtful actions by a few are a stark reminder that racism and insensitivity are still present in 21st century America.

These actions are not just insensitive; they are demeaning and mean-spirited. I refuse to accept the notion that the incidents were "just kids being kids." I refuse to accept such behavior under the guise of freedom of speech. We are blessed to have freedom of speech in this country, but this freedom also carries a responsibility to think before we speak or act.

These events are a reflection of our failures as parents, as educators and as humans. They are a reflection of our failure to learn and our failure to teach our children the difference between right and wrong. I have heard people explain the need for sensitivity to others' feelings in terms of "political correctness." The very use of that term is an admission that one cannot differentiate right from wrong. Sensitivity to the feelings of others is right.

My primary concern is that for all we are doing to reach the minds of young people, we are failing in our duty to first reach down into their hearts and develop their characters. What is in their hearts that would lead them to think that their actions were all right, or much less, funny? "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

We can teach our students how to succeed in the workforce, but we must do more to teach them how to be caring, fair-minded citizens. We must also reach their hearts. We must teach and we must learn to think before we speak or act, and to be thankful that we are not all the same. We must all remember that higher education is a privilege, not a right. Abuse of this privilege will not go unnoticed and is not without consequences.

As representatives of higher education, we must teach our students to respect cultural and racial differences. But above all, we must teach the next generation to value every individual's feelings. In conjunction with the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board and our university presidents, I will establish a systemwide diversity council charged with making recommendations for changes needed in the code of conduct at each of our campuses.

I'd like to thank the students, professors and administrators at Texas A&M and Tarleton State for their quick reactions to these recent events. Let's work as individuals, as university communities and as a university system to promote kindness and respect in our corner of the world.

I urge each of you to continue to do, say and think about those things that are needed to continue the healing.

- Michael D. McKinney, M.D., Chancellor,
The Texas A&M University System

Knowing what real love is

How do you know love is real? What is true love as opposed to being false? Then again, why even ask such questions? Why?

Much of the so-called love portrayed in the world is contrary to Scripture. And, as a result, many people are confused by what the world says and propagates about love.

True love, real love, everlasting love is first to be found in God; because God is love. Without Him, we only have pale imitations of what He intended for mankind.

Without godly love, we cannot all just get along. Without godly love, we cannot truly forgive. Without godly love, we cannot love our neighbors as ourselves. Without godly love, we cannot love God.

All this, may sound a bit strange. Yet it is true. Without the true and living God there can be no real love in life. On the other hand, with an acceptance of the Lord, the love of God is by grace shed in our hearts (Romans 5:5; 10:9).

Let's briefly examine what Scripture says about love. Godly love in Scripture is referred to as "agape" love. It is the highest form of love. Agape love makes possible the kind of love connection we all must have for God, self and others. Without agape love reigning in our hearts all else is only a shadow.

Sensual love, love of family and love of friends must all have their roots in agape for them to be truly meaningful.

Love as promoted on the soap operas, the big screen, HBO, and MTV all pale in comparison to the life-changing, life-sacrificing nature of the love of God.

As passionate students of the Word of God, we can never be deceived about this thing called "love." God has made the nature of His love so plain a child could understand it.

In Corinthians 13:1-8, godly love is described beginning with the fact that it is "patient" and ending with the fact that "love always succeeds." And, of all the things we possess, it is love that will endure forever (v. 13).

Whenever love is described and it does not match what we are taught in Corinthians 13:1-13, it must be suspect. No matter how good it sounds. No matter how good it looks. No matter how good it feels.

Scripture is quite plain about this thing called love. If love does not match up to what God has said in His Word, then love must be questioned, examined, challenged. That is the only way we can determine if it is genuine or false.

Understand that Jesus Christ love is the standard by which we are to love each other: "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12). And, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Now remain in my love" (John 15:9). Jesus goes as far as to say, "Greater love has no man than this, that one lay down his life for his friend" (John 15:13).

When we know what the Lord has said about love and its role in our daily lives then there will be no confusion.

To conclude, I'll just cite seven commands given to us by God that will keep us equally yoked in love. "Keep on loving each other as brothers" (Hebrews 13:1). "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love" (Romans 12:10).

"Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11). "Be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2). "Be encouraged in heart and united in love" (Colossians 2:2). "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else" (1 Thess. 3:12).

True love begins with God. When you have it, and I mean truly have it, then nothing can separate you from it—Real Love.

- Rev. Clarence Talley

PURPLE & GOLD POLL

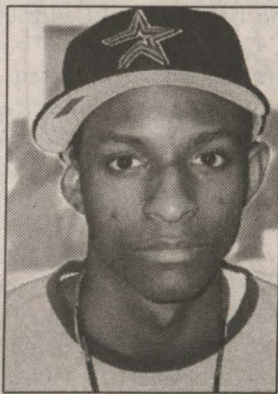
By Richard White
Panther Staff

Who do you believe will serve the U.S. as a better president if elected, Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton?



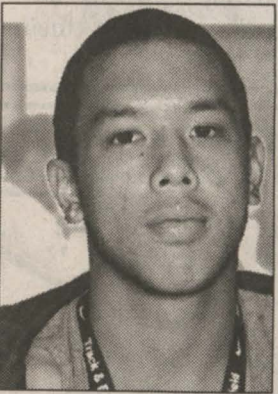
"Obama. He doesn't stress over politics. He stresses over ethics and unity. He also seems more focused on getting things done."

Erina Imasogie
Freshman
Nursing



"Hillary. Since Bill was her husband, she couldn't help but see how the president handled domestic and foreign affairs."

Jonathan Vann
Sophomore
Electrical Engineering



"Hillary. Just for the simple fact that she is Bill Clinton's wife and they do share the same mentality. Bill Clinton did a lot for the people [U.S. citizens], and if Hillary was elected president, she could finish what he started."

Jimmy Hoang
Freshman
Business Management



"Obama. He has a firm stance on his positions, along with a positive vision that can lead our country in a better direction."

Charli Cooksey
Sophomore
Political Science

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Lady Panthers' Cinderella season comes to an end

By Richard White
Panther Staff

SWAC co-champions, SWAC tournament champions, and an automatic bid to the NCAA women's tournament, who am I talking about, you ask? No one other than the powerful and dynamic 2006-2007 women's basketball team of Prairie View A&M University.

That's right, not only did the team set records and accomplish goals, they raised the bar to a new standard for Prairie View's athletic programs. Some may see it as luck, but the Lady Panthers see it as a symbol of hard work.

The road to the NCAA Tournament began in the summer of 2006 where the Lady Panthers were under the tutelage of head coach Cynthia Cooper-Dyke, assistant coaches Toyelle Wilson, Kenric Harvey, and Anthony Williams.

The team is made up of eight freshmen, three sophomores, one junior, and one senior. So not only did the players have to get to know one another, they had to learn, trust, and depend on themselves.

Through all of the trials and tribulations the ladies had to go through, such as running horses, being at practice at 5:30 a.m., running for turnovers and missed free throws, injuries, losing and gaining players, and the thousands of bags of ice, the Lady Panthers came out as champions.

The Lady Panthers faced some of the best talent all over the nation throughout the season. They started the regular season 2-0, then suddenly headed toward a downward spiral that led them to a 10-game losing streak.

Through the tough times, the Lady Panthers were down, but refused to be out. As the regular season was coming to an end, they came together and out of the last 17 games of the regular season they only lost three.

The team punched its ticket to the SWAC Tournament, and earned the title of SWAC co-champions, sharing the title with

Jackson State.

The 2007 Women's SWAC Tournament was held in Birmingham, Ala. and had Prairie View ranked as the number two seed, which proved to be nothing but a number to the women of Prairie View.

The first round the ladies vanquished Southern University with a score of 80-49. The next round of the tournament proved to be a slightly harder task, with the Panthers facing Grambling State and winning with a final score of 77-55.

The championship round of the tournament was like a David and Goliath match as Jackson State was ranked number one. When it was all said and done, with the final score 68-62, the Panthers were victorious.

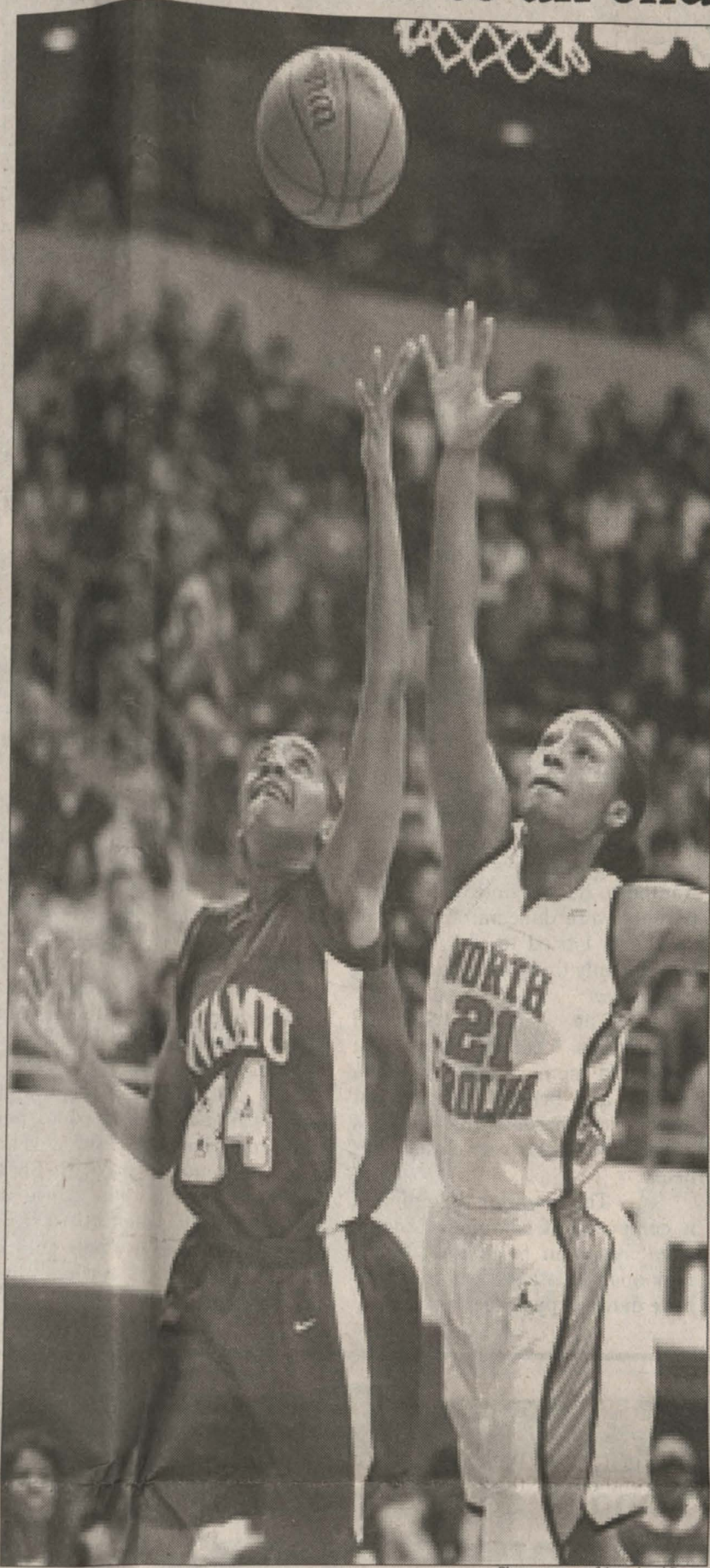
With that win, Prairie View clinched the SWAC tournament and freshman Candice Thomas earned honors as the SWAC tournament MVP, and Gaati Werema was named All-SWAC, and SWAC freshman of the year.

The next order of command was a ticket to the NCAA tourney, where the Lady Panthers faced off in the first round of play against the University of North Carolina in Pittsburgh, Pa. As the Panthers played as hard as they could their effort was not enough, which brought their season to a close.

Angel Smith, a senior guard described her experience on the basketball team as "hard, but worth it." Smith said some things that she and her teammate had to go through was "being in shape and prepared for the season, becoming a team, and getting to know each other." The Lady Panthers only had four returning players from last season, so the team was practically rebuilt.

When asked if there is anything she could change about the season, Smith without hesitation replied, "Nothing." The Lady Panthers have come a long way, and are waiting on that banner to hang proudly in the Baby Dome.

The Lady Panthers may be SWAC champs for a season, but they will forever be champions in the heart of Prairie View.



Fighting spirit: Lady Panther guard Candice Thomas battles for possession against Tarheel forward Iman McFarland.

Spring Schedule

BASEBALL

@ Southern	3/24	1:00 p.m.
@ Southern	3/25	1:00 p.m.
vs. Houston Bapt.	3/28	6:00 p.m.
vs. Ark. Pine Bluff	3/31	1:00 p.m.
vs. Ark. Pine Bluff	4/01	1:00 p.m.
@ Rice	4/03	7:00 p.m.
@ Grambling St.	4/07	1:00 p.m.
@ Grambling St.	4/08	1:00 p.m.
@ Houston Bapt.	4/10	2:00 p.m.
@ UT-Pan. Amer.	4/14	6:00 p.m.
@ UT-Pan. Amer.	4/15	12:00 p.m.
vs. Texas South.	4/21	1:00 p.m.
vs. Texas South.	4/22	1:00 p.m.
vs. Southern	4/28	1:00 p.m.
vs. Southern	4/29	1:00 p.m.
@ Ark. Pine Bluff	5/05	1:00 p.m.
@ Ark. Pine Bluff	5/06	1:00 p.m.

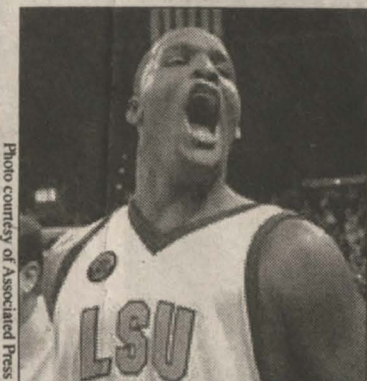
SOFTBALL

vs. Alabama St.	3/24	1:00 p.m.
vs. Alabama St.	3/25	1:00 p.m.
@ Houston Bapt.	3/28	2:00 p.m.
vs. Ark. Pine Bluff	3/31	5:00 p.m.
vs. Ark. Pine Bluff	4/01	11:00 a.m.
@ Sam Houston St.	4/03	7:00 p.m.
@ Texas College	3/31	12:00 a.m.
@ Grambling St.	4/02	2:00 p.m.
@ Grambling St.	4/03	1:00 p.m.
@ UT-San Antonio	4/06	6:00 p.m.
@ UT-San Antonio	4/07	12:00 p.m.
vs. Houston Bapt.	4/11	5:00 p.m.
vs. Ark. Pine Bluff	4/13	11:00 a.m.
vs. Ark. Pine Bluff	4/14	11:00 a.m.
vs. Sam Houston St.	4/18	4:00 p.m.
@ Texas South.	4/20	3:00 p.m.
@ Texas South.	4/21	12:00 p.m.
vs. Corpus Christi	4/24	3:00 p.m.

Track & Field

@TSU Relays	3/23	9:00 a.m.
@TSU Relays	3/24	9:00 a.m.
PV Relays	3/31	8:30 a.m.
@Texas Relays	4/4	9:00 a.m.
@ Texas Relays	4/5	9:00 a.m.
@ Texas Relays	4/6	9:00 a.m.
@ Texas Relays	4/7	9:00 a.m.
@ Pelican Relays	4/13	9:00 a.m.
@ Pelican Relays	4/14	9:00 a.m.

LSU's Glen Davis skips out on senior year to enter draft



Big shoes to fill: LSU center Glen Davis has shared comparisons to Shaquille O'Neal.

Associated Press

LSU's "Big Baby" is moving on to the next stage of his basketball life. Glen "Big Baby" Davis announced Tuesday that he will skip his senior year. "After my toughest year, I now feel I am physically and mentally ready for the NBA," Davis said. "In my mind and in my heart, I felt that it was time for me to move on." Coach John Brady said last week the 6-foot-9, 290-pound junior

had been meeting with agents and was leaning toward turning pro.

Davis averaged 17.7 points and 10.4 rebounds this season, missing several games late in the year because of a strained quadriceps. He is the only LSU player other than Shaquille O'Neal with career totals surpassing 1,500 points, 900 rebounds and 100 blocks.

Davis was an AP second team All-America selection during the 2005-06 season, when LSU went to the Final Four. "Last year, the team had great success. I was part of only four LSU teams to make it to the

Final Four," Davis said. "I decided to stay and hoped to build on that this year. Unfortunately that didn't happen." Davis has signed with Houston-based agent John Hamilton of Performance Sports Management but will remain enrolled at LSU until the end of the semester. The NBA's pre-draft camp is from May 28 to June 5 in Orlando, and Davis expects to be there.

Brady said he advised Davis to turn pro unless he was fully committed to returning to LSU for his senior year. "That was the most important thing to me," Brady said.

"I told him two weeks ago that he needs to go where his heart moves him to go, not where someone tells him he'll go [in the draft]. He had three outstanding years at LSU. I watched him grow. ... He'll do well."

Davis said he's been told he could be selected anywhere from the middle of the first round to early in the second. First-round picks get guaranteed three-year contracts.

While Davis played both center and power forward in college, he's expected to play only the latter in the pros. "It's just about being ready and I'm ready," Davis said.

Leading the conference

By Rashad Morgan
Sports Editor

Prairie View has had more than a few tough seasons within its respectable athletic programs. I could mention a couple of below .500 seasons, but I'm not because the athletic program here at Prairie View A&M University is beginning to soar above and beyond.

In the last four years the Panthers have produced a total of eight conference championships in seven different sports: Cross Country (2), Volleyball (1), Men's Basketball (1), Women's Basketball (1), Tennis (1), and Men's Track (1). Not to mention the seasons where Prairie View's athletic teams birthed winning seasons.

During my freshman year, I would hear how "sorry" the athletic program was or that the football team has never won a game, and that's what people outside of the city limits thought as well, "that any sports team at Prairie View was weak."

Those days of poor recruiting and few athletic scholarships have been long gone. The home of the mighty Panther has established itself as one of the

premiere athletic programs in the Southwestern Athletic Conference alongside established schools such as Grambling, Southern and Jackson State, all of them are schools Prairie View has defeated in recent athletic events.

In fact Prairie View is the only school to achieve the feat of earning a conference title in seven different sports in the past four years.

It began in 2003 when the men's Panther basketball team went on a six-game winning streak to capture the school's first regular season championship in 40 years.

After a slight slump in 2004, which could be described as a year in rebuilding, 2005 brought home two more championships, thanks to cross-country and tennis. The cross-country team again accomplished the feat in 2006 ruining the Southern and Grambling dominance of the sport. Also, in 2006 the baseball team put together an unbelievable 19-5 home record en route to a SWAC title and a birth in the NCAA tourney.

With volleyball, track and field, and women's basketball bringing in three championships this school year, Prairie View is well on its way to greatness.



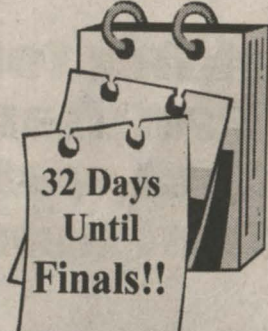
The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

THEA INFO YOU SHOULD KNOW

You must have a grade of 'C' or better in your developmental class (es) at mid-terms to be able to pre-register for the summer or fall 2007.

Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick THEA testing schedule or call 936/857-2747.



UC CONGRATUALTES OUR WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM!!

Bldg #45 students with a 3.0 or higher mid-term GPA discussed the current SCOOP on education issues with their Faculty Fellow, Dr. Shawanda Anderson on March 22nd. The informational scoop was part of an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social.

UC wants to commend Phylcia Coleman, Angel Glover and Chenzeria Hemphill from Building 40 for being among 200 College Students to interview over Spring Break for the Bardoli study abroad program. The interview process was an all day event that included individual and group projects, leadership and writing activities.

On higher ground



By David Butler, The Panther

Taking time to reflect: Hasifah Najjemba sits on a Prairie View sculpture a couple of meters from the dance studio to enjoy the afternoon sun.

By Richard White
Panther Staff

"That great feeling of escape, and being transformed into a world where anything is possible," is what freshman Hasifah Najjemba says is her motivation and drive.

Najjemba is a freshman majoring in nutrition and biology with a minor in dance. She has taken the role of becoming the founder/president of Spiritual Expressions, a praise dance company that she has plans of establishing the first chapter at Prairie View.

Born in Uganda, East Africa, Najjemba moved to America at the age of 10. At the tender age of

seven, she noticed her undying love and passion for dance.

"I've always known that I wanted to dance, since both of my parents were dancers, and out of all sports I tried to play, dancing was the only thing that stuck," says Najjemba.

The name Spiritual Expressions comes from a childhood memory that Najjemba quickly and briefly explains, but heavily emphasizes that it is a memory she holds very close to her heart.

The team for the moment is composed of 11 women ranging from freshman to juniors, but is now open to others, whether they have dance experience or not.

Spiritual Expressions can be found dancing for Christ on every first and third Sunday in the chapel on campus. She has more than a couple of goals she plans to accomplish before graduation, one of which is to have a dance company up and running. The second is to be a certified personal trainer, and third, to turn as many people she can into vegetarians.

Najjemba is a bright star who is humble, dedicated to her craft, and has a refreshing keen sense of humor. She says, "If I had the opportunity, I would dance all day and night." When asked why, she said, "because not only does it run in my blood, it's encoded into my DNA."

THE LIMIT OF EXPECTATIONS



By Dr. Victor Pendleton
Psychologist, PVAMU Counseling Center

It is a fact that our expectations predict our behavior. For example, if you don't believe that you can learn the Chinese language, you are less likely to try. And even if you do try, you probably won't make a full effort because it would be a waste of time: Why bother?

Many people are embarrassed by a lack of confidence in their ability to do something, so they develop "defense mechanisms" to defend our egos against the stigma of being less-than. An example of a defense mechanism is when a person says, "I don't want to learn Chinese," when what they really mean is that they don't believe they can. The tricky part is that the person may actually be unaware of their lack of confidence in their ability to learn Chinese: they may lack self-awareness.

Self confidence is increased and decreased by previous life experiences. For example, a young person who grows up competing with weaker, less agile playmates will likely grow up believing that they

are athletically talented and will be enthusiastic about participating in physical activities. Our expectations of our ability to succeed are built up over time and represent the sum total of our previous experiences. People with low expectations have similarly 'learned' that they are not capable of succeeding.

Just as we learned things in the past we can learn things in the future. If a person has low expectations they can elevate their expectations for the future by doing the following three things: 1) increasing self-awareness of areas where they have low expectations, 2) building self-confidence through mastery experiences, and 3) associating with supportive people and people who aspire to similar goals.

Increasing self-awareness can be done by honestly considering why we avoid or dislike certain activities. Often it helps to discuss this with someone like a counselor or a good friend. Mastery experiences are a sequence of experiences that are designed to increase confidence. The method involves accomplishing small realistic and achievable goals. Each time a goal is achieved we set a new goal that is just a bit more challenging. In this way, confidence is developed gradually over time. Finally, the right associates encourage us through their words and actions. When we see our associates doing that which we aspire to do, we learn how to do it and we see that it can be done.

You can maximize your potential and your happiness by managing your expectations of success.

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Are '20 Questions' not spicy enough for you?

Do you need more laughs when you pick up The Panther on Thursday?

What are you waiting for?

Send in your question today!

panther@pvamu.edu

(All questions are anonymous and kept confidential until publication.)

Out of state or out of mind

By Steven Currie
Panther Staff

To college students around the world, spring break is a time of freedom and a chance to kick back and relax. While South Padre Island seems to be the most obvious place to go during spring break, not all Prairie View students decided to spend their week of freedom on the island.

Some students, such as senior Teanna Reed, spent the break at home in Houston with her family, taking care of business that she doesn't have time to take care of during her regular school schedule. She enjoyed her break because she got to "spend time with her nephews and sleep until after 12."

Other students, such as junior health major Jatoya Brunn spent the break making money. As a cashier at Wal-Mart, Brunn came into contact with many different people from all walks of life. When asked if she enjoyed her job, she replied "No, because the customers get on my nerves."

Although some students decided to stay home or work for spring break, South Padre Island was still one of the hottest destinations for Prairie View students.

Freshman communications major Ronald Smith decided to go to South Padre because he has never been. He described the trip as the "best time ever" because Padre offers activities such as "going to the beach, going to the club, and shopping."

No matter where students went during spring break, they were able to get away from the daily trials and tribulations of college life. There were no worries about papers, exams, deadlines, or due dates.

Unfortunately, the break is over and students have to get back to their daily routine. There is a bright side however; summer vacation is only six weeks away.



Yea or nay?: Many students were on Padre Island this past week, but was it really all that hype? Courtesy of sopadre.com

pvpanther.com

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FINANCIAL AID 20 QUESTIONS

1. Were you aware of the financial aid priority deadline for 2007-2008? 2. If not, then it was March 15. 3. Are you aware that once you have submitted the 2007-2008 FAFSA it is the only document required unless you were selected for verification or have a past due balance? 4. Have you completed the new loan process (Opennet)? if not you will have to complete it for summer or fall financial aid loans. 5. Did you know that you can check Opennet Web site to view the status of your loan at any time? 6. How many students viewed the new financial aid Web site? 7. Have you been checking your PVAMU e-mail account daily? 8. If not, you need to start because this is the main way of communicating with PVAMU students. 9. Do you know that you can check your award summary via Panthertracks instead of waiting in line at the financial aid office? 10. If there is no award then check student requirements to see if you have done everything you need to do. 11. Are you aware that there is a November 15 deadline to submit verification documents for 2007-2008? 12. Do you know what Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is? If not, then you can read about it on the financial aid Web site. 13. Are you aware that there is an appeal procedure in place for students who do not meet SAP? 14. Do you know that once you are awarded, you will receive notification via mail or e-mail? 15. How many students know how to read their billing statements? If you don't, then call Treasury Services at 936-261-1903? 16. Did you know that your Panthertracks/Opennet ID and passwords are **not** the same? 17. Did you know that the financial aid department does not issue refund checks? 18. If you did not know, you need to go to the treasury service department (Cashier Window) located in W.R. Banks or call 936-261-1903. 19. Do you know your financial aid counselor? If not, then view the financial aid Web site. 20. Did you know any information you need about financial aid can be found on the Web site at www.pvamu.edu/faid

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20 QUESTIONS

1. Spring break is gone... who has a headache? 2. Who saw that guy with the shirt of the smiley face? 3. Are you smiling? 4. Who feels sorry for the women's basketball team? 5. Can't you see they had the best week ever? 6. What's up with Chance and Whiteboy from I Love New York acting a fool on South Beach? 7. How many people are really about to study after they got their mid-term grades? 8. Were they really that bad? 9. Is there really an Iota foam party at Sam Houston? 10. Whose desperate measure was that notion? 11. Or is it like a telethon, you stay open all night hoping supporters will make their way? 12. Do they stand a chance against Toga 3? 13. Why is AKA always next to Zeta week? 14. Sure beats a Facebook group invitation, huh?? 15. What really went down in the UC Monday night? Actually, what went down this weekend? 17. Ain't that front page story a trip? 18. Do PV police need a raise to cover that one? 19. Still, why doesn't anyone submit these questions any more? 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.

Vegas Style Spring Fest

Sunday, March 25, 2007

"Treasure Island"
Poetry Night @ 5pm
MSC Lobby

Monday, March 26, 2007

"Las Vegas Strip"
Probate & Spring Fest Kick-Off @ 6:30pm
William 'Billy' J. Nicks (Baby Dome)

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

"Pink Flamingo"
Comedy Show @ 8pm
William 'Billy' J. Nicks (Baby Dome)
Featuring: Gary Owen, Rob Stapelton, Deon Cole

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

"Caesars Palace"
Casino Night @ 7pm
MSC Ballroom

Thursday, March 29, 2007

"Circus Circus"
Carnival Extravaganza @ 7pm
Alumni Field

Friday, March 30, 2007








"Stardust"
Spring Fest Concert @ 8pm
William 'Billy' J. Nicks (Baby Dome)
Featuring: DJ Unk, Tum-Tum, E-Class, Big Tuck, Big Moe, Trae, Raw LT, Big Pokey

Saturday, March 31, 2007

"MGM Grand"
Step Show & Afterparty @ 8pm
William 'Billy' J. Nicks (Baby Dome)

Tickets On Sale at the Bookstore!!!

This Week On The Hill

Thursday, Mar. 22, 2007	Friday, Mar. 23, 2007	Saturday, Mar. 24, 2007	Sunday, Mar. 25, 2007	Monday, Mar. 26, 2007	Tuesday, Mar. 27, 2007	Wednesday, Mar. 28, 2007
<p>8 a.m. - 11:55 p.m. Back To Basics Spring Ball @ MSC Ballroom Rm. 204</p> <p>6 p.m. - 9 p.m. History Club Lecture: Movement of the '60s @ New Science Rm. A103</p> <p>6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Alpha Kappa Alpha Seminar @ New Science Rm. 103</p> <p>7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Gamma Phi Delta Bible Enrichment Program @ WR Banks Rm. 204</p>	<p>3 p.m. - 11:55 p.m. Student Activities Da Hill Speed Dating @ Ballroom</p> <p>5:30 p.m. - 11:55 p.m. Student Activities Late Nights on Da Hill/Game Night, Student Center Lounge & Foyer, 2nd Floor</p> <p>7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Nu Gamma Phi History Lessons @ WR Banks Rm. 209</p> <p>7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Gamma Phi Delta Bible Enrichment Program @ WR Banks Rm. 204</p>	<p>8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Quizbowl @ MSC Ball- room</p> <p>8 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. College of Business 30th Anniversary Dinner, MSC Ballroom Rm. 204</p> <p>9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Career Services All-Star Challenge @ MSC Student Lounge</p> <p>11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Alpha Kappa Alpha Endowment Fund Walk @ Campus Wide</p>	<p>3 p.m. - 10 p.m. SPRING FEST Poetry Night @ MSC Lobby - FREE!</p> <p>6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Gamma Sigma Sigma Seminar @ WR Banks Rm. 204</p>	<p>2 p.m. - 11 p.m. Spring Fest Probate and Street Fest @ MSC Outside</p> <p>5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Student Activities New Members Yard Show @ Baby Dome</p> <p>6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Iota Phi Theta What Is A Iota Sweetheart? @ New Science Rm. A104</p>	<p>7 p.m. - 12 a.m. Spring Fest Comedy Show @ Baby Dome Tickets available in Bookstore</p> <p>7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Classy Gentlemen Seminar: Organizational Information @ WR Banks Rm. 205</p> <p>7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Career Services Graduate & Professional Schools Fair @ MSC Auditorium Rm. 111</p>	<p>Founder's Day/Honors Convocation</p> <p>12 p.m. - 11 p.m. Omega Psi Phi BBQ/Basketball Tourna- ment @ Student Park</p> <p>7 p.m. - 11:55 p.m. Spring Fest Casino Night @ MSC Ballroom Free</p>
Weather						
						
Clouds and breezy	Breezy with variable clouds	Rather cloudy	Partly sunny and breezy	Clouds and sun	Mostly cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 77 °F Low: 62 °F	High: 77 °F Low: 63 °F	High: 77 °F Low: 64 °F	High: 78 °F Low: 60 °F	High: 81 °F Low: 63 °F	High: 79 °F Low: 65 °F	High: 78 °F Low: 64 °F