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The Panther

February 3, 1997

Volume 74, No. 1

Bow Down to The Panthers

Panther Men prepare for round 2 of SWAC competition

By ERIC-CHAMEL GAITHER

The 96-97 hoop-it-up Panthers, touted as the most talented team of recruits to hit the yard in some 20 years, is arguably the best team in the SWAC - period. Make no mistake about it. The 4-3 conference record posted by the Panthers during the first half of conference play was deceptive, and no other team in the SWAC possesses the physicality and untapped aggressiveness the Panthers plan to release in round two.

"We fear nobody. We've got the alligator mentality [destroy everything invading your environment]," said guard Marquis Patton, a Houston native who helped the Panthers nearly deroute Big 12 members Baylor University, during the winter intermission. In that contest, the Panthers led the Bears 31-30 at the half, before relinquishing the lead when called for two technical fouls, issued the Panthers for failure to have registered Patton and Sylvester Lilly on the books. The Bears - who recently

beat the University of Texas-Austin Longhorns - hit 4-for-4 on technical foul awarded free throws, giving them an edge to gather and ultimately pull away from the Panthers.

To the amazement of many fixated with an image of a Prairie View accustomed to losing, the proximity of the PV-Baylor showdown opened a playbook with a new script, one that has notable names like Tamarron Sharpe, Jocquinn Arch, King Whetstone, Marlon Hopkins, Shawn Scoggins, Andre Billings, Saladin Bilodeau, Kevin Bell, Keith Mowbray and Corey Collins.

But Patton is quick to make it known that nobody on the Panther squad is a one-man show noting, "We try to emphasize team structure, team attitude."

Talking to the Panthers one gets the idea that the first half of conference play was cub action, that they were just scoping out what to do with their prey. Now that they've jiggled a few necks, it looks as though the collar-bone-cracking action will

get under way.

"We're just going to have to come out and pound people," declared Panther guard Julius Marble.

Against Jackson State, Marble pulled seven rebounds while teammate Aron Thompson snatched a decade off the boards, totaling 17 between the two - a tremendous effort and a significant accomplishment, according to assistant men's basketball coach Robert Vanderbilt, "Three things are important: good defense, rebounds and free throws," he said.

Not to worry, those other three things - MVSU, GSU and TSU - will be wrangled when the Panthers' "refuse-to-lose" mentality, as it was described by Patton, holds strong. And while poor officiating has been cited as a key ingredient in the three conference misfortunes, it has not been used as an excuse for the Panthers losses. Still, coach Vanderbilt says "a formal complaint about the officiating" will be filed with the SWAC offices in

continued on page 8



Panther player Kevin Bell dunks on Southern University before a home crowd. Panthers hold steady for a season record of four wins, four losses. Photo by Gitonga M'mbijewe

Village Phase II construction set for completion fall 1997

By MICHAEL POPE

Students dreaming of quality housing will have a chance to accomplish their dreams as Phase II of University Village is being erected from "The Hill." There has been no ground breaking ceremony but construction started in January and will be finished by this fall.

Davis Brothers construction is building with a full head of steam, putting in quality materials and work as they meet deadlines as they did for Phase I of University Village. Phase II will consist of two bedroom and two-bath units. The floor plans for Phase II will not be available until Feb. 28. Phase II will hold 600 students. University Village Phase I and Phase II will accommodate a total of 1200 Prairie View A & M upper-classmen. The fee for living in Phase II has not been determined but will be slightly higher than the cost of living in Phase I.

There were more than 300 people on last year's waiting list and many others who did not get on the

list. "Last year 381 students moved onto campus with the introduction of University Village. This year we are expecting demands to continue from our current residents plus huge demand from those turned away last year and all those eligible to move in said general manager of University Village Richelle Sayles.

"Housing is at the forefront of the university, but a major concern will be housing incoming freshman," said Sayles. University Village Phase I and Phase II will not be accepting applications from freshmen. A priority process is in place at University Village. Upper classmen will be given top priority and then sophomores will be considered for housing. To meet the demand of current residents priority applications will be available Feb. 14 at 10 a.m. "We are expecting a big line and we will serve donuts," said Sayles of the anticipated house rush. Current residents must complete all paper work by Feb. 24 to maintain priority status. Applications to the general public will be available Friday, Feb. 28 at University Village clubhouse.

PV- GE relationship continues amiably



Engineering department head Milton Bryan accepts a check from Jim Williams of General Electric during a Student Leadership Conference for PV at the Houston Post Oak Double Tree Hotel Jan. 31. Three other departments, The National Society of Black Engineers, the business school and Benjamin Banneker Honors college also received money totalling \$20,000. Seminars were held for PV students and administrators from the Office of Student Affairs. Administrators were introduced to a bureaucratic problem-solving technique called Process Mapping. Seminars for students were effective interviewing, corporate etiquette and ethics and a one-on-one session with some African American GE employees, several of whom were recent PV graduates.

Briefly

For Your Health

SURVIVING CANCER

Prostate surgery can lead to a higher prostate-cancer survival rate is the conclusion of scientists at eight U. S. and European medical centers who monitored the long-term survival rates of 2,758 men with prostate cancer, most of whom underwent radical prostatectomies.

"Men with early-stage prostate cancer who have their prostates surgically removed have a high 10-year survival rate," said Dr. Peter Scardino, chairman of the urology department at Houston's Baylor College of Medicine, one of the study sites.

For men with prostate cancer that was early in its development and that had not spread beyond the prostate, 94 percent were still cancer-free 10 years after surgery. For those whose prostate cancer was more advanced, post-surgical cancer-free rates ranged from 77 to 80 percent.

BLACKS AND BLOOD PRESSURE

A study shows that Black people are more aware of the dangers of high blood pressure than previously thought.

A preliminary conclusion of a four-year study at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, one of five project sites, is that "the lack of information in the black community about hypertension is not as great as some health professionals believed," said Dr. David J. Hyman, one of the principal investigators.

"In our contacts with more than 6,000 people in Houston, black people were quite knowledgeable about high blood pressure and its risks," said Dr. Valory N. Pavlik, project director.

The study, funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, was conducted by Baylor's Department of Community Medicine in cooperation with the Harris County Hospital District, the Texas Southern University School of Pharmacy and the Texas Woman's University School of Nursing.

PREGNANT MILITARY WOMEN

Women in the military must meet specific standards for weight, body fat and physical fitness six months after delivery.

Researchers at the USDA's Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston have received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Army to determine if existing standards are realistic for postpartum women.

"There is concern that military policies requiring women to return to prior weight and fitness levels six months after delivery discourage adequate weight gain during pregnancy and encourage an unduly restricted diet after deliver," said Dr. Nancy Butte.

Study results should provide new baseline information on pregnant women and their return to duty readiness. Findings could also influence military requirements of weight, body fat and fitness after surgery.

CHILDHOOD EYE PROBLEMS

Some deficiencies can be detected before a newborn leaves the hospital, other conditions, including misalignment of the eyes or strabismus, take time to develop.

"Misalignment of the eyes is the most common, potentially serious pediatric vision problem we see," said Dr. Paul Steinkuller, an ophthalmologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "It occurs in 2 to 4 percent of the pediatric population."

Parents should be aware of how an infant "fixes and follows." As early as six weeks of age, a baby with healthy eyes will be able to follow a parent's eyes and hand as they move. If this not happening, parents should consult a doctor.

Even if parents do not notice problems with their child's vision, Steinkuller said, it is vital that eye exams be part of an infant's regular pediatric checkups.

VITAMINS HARMFUL?

Over-the-counter vitamin supplements can be potentially toxic and megadoses can be harmful, said Dr. Kathleen Motil at the USDA's Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"Too much iron can be fatal and there are cases where excess vitamins A and D can damage the

kidneys, heart and brain," Motil said.

Motil considers vitamins unnecessary if a child is healthy and consumes a well-balanced diet. She suggests the USDA's food guide pyramid as a reference, but Motil believes supplements may be appropriate for premature infants, children on restrictive diets, including vegetarian diets and children under the care of physician for specific medical reasons such as a chronic illness, teen pregnancy or eating disorders.

Motil urges parent to consult their pediatrician or a registered dietician who specializes in children's nutrition if they are concerned about their child's eating habits.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

NIKKI GIOVANNI AT BORDERS

Outspoken and politically astute poet Nikki Giovanni, will sign and read selections from *Love Poems*, her new book of poetry. The signing will take place, Thursday, February 6 at 12:00 noon at Borders Books and Music, 570 Meyerland Plaza on Loop 610 S. at Beechnut.(713) 664-9030.

Love Poems, published by William Morrow, brings together the revolutionary "Seduction", the whimsical "I Wrote a Good Omelet", and the tender "My House", which are among her most famous works with other favorites and twenty new poems. Included in the new book is the provocative "All Eyez on U" written for the late Tupac Shakur. This new poetry embodies the fearless passion and spirited wit for which Nikki Giovanni is beloved and revered. Romantic, bold, and erotic, *Love Poems* expresses notions of love in ways that are delightfully unexpected.

Giovanni's writing inspires courage and power. In the late 1960's, her popularity soared during the Civil Rights Movement as she became known as a "Poet of the People". Giovanni's gift transcends racial barriers and her fresh and topical approach to writing has made her a universal favorite and number-one best-seller. Giovanni is the author of fourteen volumes of poetry, several of which have sold over 100,000 copies. She was awarded "Woman of the Year" by *Essence*, *Mademoiselle*, and *Ladies' Home Journal* magazines. She is a professor of English at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Virginia.

GILPIN PLAYERS ADVANCE TO REGIONALS

The Drama Department is on pins and needles these days as a result of the announcement of the American College Theatre Group that the Charles Gilpin Players have been invited to perform in Norman, Oklahoma at the Regional VI competition Thursday, February 27. The Gilpin Players will present their award-winning production of "Fences" which garnered 21 individual and group awards during Fall 96 at the Texas I and II American College Theatre Festivals. The ACTF competition is sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

The Gilpin Players are among 29 colleges and universities who were state winners from the five states in the Region VI area. Those states were Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico, Louisiana and Oklahoma. However, only six of the state winners were chosen for the regional festival. Other institutions of higher education chosen to perform are the University of Central Oklahoma, Northeastern State University, Texas Wesleyan University,

McNeese State University and West Texas A&M University. The competition begins on February 26th and finishes on March 1st.

TWO PVAMU NURSING FACULTY WIN W.K. KELLOGG POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

PVAMU college of Nursing faculty members, Dr. Christina Akoma, Assistant Professor and Dr. Chloe Gaines, Associate Professor, have been selected to receive W.K. Kellogg Fellowships for nurse educators by the Southern Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing. The Council is an affiliate of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the grant's purpose is to increase the number of family nurse practitioner faculty in the region. The faculty members are among 23 fellows who are supported by a \$1.1 million grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

THE PANTHER PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

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Around Campus

This Week

February 3rd-8th

- 3rd** Basketball PV vs. Alabama (away)
4:00 p.m. General Hearing on General Use Fee and Health Service Fee
6:00 p.m. Alpha Lambda Omega Bible study
Emerging Leaders seminar
- 4th** 39th Annual Ministers Conference
Delta Sigma Theta-Black Business Expo.
10:00 p.m. Alpha Lambda Omega-Prayer Meeting
- 5th** 39th Annual Ministers Conference
Basketball PV vs. Huston Tillotson (home)5:30 p.m.(W)7:30 p.m.(M)
- 6th** Engineering & Architecture Symposium
8:00 a.m. ACT-PEP
Basketball-PV vs. Oral Roberts (home) 6:00 p.m. (W)
10:00 p.m. Alpha Lambda Omega-Prayer Meeting
- 7th** Engineering & Architecture Symposium
8:00 a.m. ACT-PEP
- 8th** 8:00 a.m. LSAT Testing
Basketball PV vs. Grambling (home)5:30 p.m.(W)7:30 p.m.(M)

"Special Notice"

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Southwestern Province

Before any undergraduate chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi can initiate men, the chapter must be certified or recertified. Absolutely no membership intake activities (e.g., activities and events leading to and associated with recruitment, selection, education, and initiation of men interested in joining Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.) will be permitted prior to chapter certification or recertification.

It is the policy of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. that hazing in any form is illegal. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action and possible prosecution by appropriate authorities.

Individuals may contact International Headquarters of Kappa Alpha Psi by writing 2322-24 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132-4590 or by calling (215) 228-7184. Individuals may contact the Southwestern Province Council Regional Office by writing to P.O. Box 64998, Baton Rouge, LA 70896 or calling (504) 927-0383.

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EBONY HISTORY MORE THAN JUST A MONTH AT PV

'Out of Africa there is always coming something new'

Notes from *The African Origin of Civilization* by Asa G Hillard III

peoples, including especially European.

I. Some necessary elements in a frame of reference

A. Africa is the originator of the oldest and many other later civilizations.

B. African civilizations like others have risen and fallen. Therefore, African people are not just "coming out of the stone age or other past age."

C. African civilization as the parent civilization spread itself worldwide and is reflected even today in the religion, politics, economics and creativities of many of the worlds

D. There has been and continues to be a continent wide cultural unity in Africa which is at variance with the picture which we have given of Africa as a continent of many different peoples.

E. There has been and continues to be cultural continuities and residuals among African people throughout the diaspora, including America (North and South), the Caribbean, the South Pacific and other places as well.

F. Africans have been known through the information, language and perspectives of colonizers who

have had vested interest in seeing Africans as "animals", "underdeveloped", "primitive", "pagan," "heathen," or simply as children in order to satisfy the colonizers own greed and in keeping with their own myopia.

G. Present and recent negative European and European- American views of Africa are new in European history and do not match with what Europeans knew and believed about Africa prior to the periods of their colonial greed.

H. The continued use of colonial names, terminology, and constructs as "sub-Saharan African," "race," "Hamite," "melanism," "Negro," pagan and others will perpetuate

confusion and will make true scholarly investigation impossible.

I. No amount of reading of secondary sources alone is sufficient to develop a true history of the people of Alke-bu-lan (African). Original artifacts, records, papers, historians, must be consulted.

II. From Colonialism to "race to racism

A. Belief affects behavior
B. A belief system can be healthy (a good match between the real and ideal worlds) or sick, (a poor match)

C. Colonial expansion depended upon a sick belief system for

both the colonizer and the colonized. Therefore, "race was invented (separating Europeans conceptually from people to be dominated) and racism emerged.

D. Racism is an infection of the belief system, a mental illness with the following symptoms:

1. perceptual distortion
2. denial of reality
3. delusions of grandeur
4. projection of blame
5. phobic reactions to differences

E. A colonizer may be a racist. A victim cannot be so, but may be a pro-racist (identification with the aggressor), limiting many racist behaviors



Did you know? Oprah Winfrey

Did you know that each season, tens of millions of people in more than 100 countries turn to her. This rapt attention has made hers the number-one talk show in U.S. syndication history. She's the first African-American woman and only the third woman to ever own a studio bearing her name, backwards (HARPO). Her paycheck reflects her phenomenal success \$53 million last year alone and second only to director Steven Spielberg's among celebrity wage earners.

She shares generously: The United Negro College Fund, Morehouse College and the Harold Washington Library are among many on the receiving end of millions that she has given away.

More rare air... Not an athlete, at age 40 she completed a 26-mile marathon. Not a trained actress, she has shown dramatic power-on-screen. But it is her unscripted dialogue with us about her real life battles that keeps us tuning in.

*Courtesy of Johnson Publishing Company

AFRI-FACTS

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P J I E M K Q E A A
A Y O I A M C X T R
N U I L K T H Z N M
T H N I T D L K X E
H D Y G I K M E E R
E U J E O J J P Y B
R U R R L Q T M T T
R Y U C H A M E L Y
G Q T H E A H M N A
R D U B O I S R O D
F A G O P T N N O I
E R W E E O O P N T
S E A M S T R E S S
A T Q N H M R S A H
F G H Y T O V U P L
D O G J M R I T L K
J N B V C E Z A E D
G F D S A H W E A Y
L K J S T O W E H G
P O I U Y U R H C F
H J H G S S M C I I
F D C V O E Y N M O
Y H G F N S E U R E
H N B J U Y T B T R
B V G B E T H U N E
C H A M A I N E T B

Find these people:
- He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.

- He is the youngest heavyweight boxing champ ever.

- This was Rosa Parks' occupation before 1950.

- She was a Cabinet advisor to FDR.

- He was the only Helmsman Trophy winner not selected in the draft.

- He was the first African American heavyweight

boxing champion.

- She was the first African American to publish a book.

- This was MLK's original first name.

- He received the Levin Peace Prize in 1959.

- This famous institution was originally founded in 1867 as the Augusta Institute.

- He wrote the *Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

- She was the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Campus news

Chemistry profs research lighter weight aircraft material, blood coagulant at PV

By JO-CAROLYN GOODE

Scientific projects abound at Prairie View A&M University. The chemistry department in particular is up to its ears in research. Doctors Laura Carson and Vasant M. Doctor have accepted the challenge in their ongoing research.

Over a three-year period, the chemistry and mechanical engineering departments have received a \$3 million grant for a joint project from the United States Air Force.

Carson from the chemistry department and two members of the mechanical engineering department are researching a new light weight structural material to be used in the making of Air Force aircraft frames and engines. Metal is being used in the process to make the engines and frames. Using metal, however, has many disadvantages. For example, metal is a very heavy and expensive material. On the other hand, there is an advantage to using metal. It's a very strong material. The professors at Prairie View want to develop a lighter weight and more inexpensive material with the same strength as metal.

Carson is putting a number of different polymers through a series of tests to determine which of them has the better properties. Properties such as glass, transition, temperature, stress strain, strength, as well as oxidated and hydrolytic stability.

Doctor, also from the chemistry department, is conducting research that has a two-fold purpose. One part deals with anticoagulants,

compounds that slow down the blood clotting process. Doctor's research involves constructing compounds to help in this effort. His laboratory is inseting phosphates and sulfates to polysaccharides and testing them using human plasma. This research is still in it's developmental stages so the effectiveness of these compounds in animals is not known. If Doctor's research is successful, victims of heart attacks and strokes will be the primary beneficiaries in that it will help in preventing the recurrence of blood clot formation.

While the first part of Doctor's research involves slowing down of the blood coagulation process, the second part involves the effect of new sulfated compounds on fibrinolysis, the process of dissolving a blood clot. The clot is made up of fibrin, which are thread-like strands of a material around which blood coagulation takes place. Doctor wants to find a way to enhance the way fibrin can be broken down by using new compounds. His research is funded by a \$150,000 grant from the National Institute of Health-National Institute of General Medical Science Branch-Minority Biomedical Research and Support from July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997.

Doctor is very delighted with the progress of his experiments thus far. He is really pleased with former student Carson's work, as well. Doctor hopes that his findings will help other in furthering their research and in the end the world as a whole will be the beneficiaries.

Panther Pride



Prairie View students show their spirit while the Symphonic Band plays "Dear Prairie View" during President Charles Hines' convocation Jan. 30. In his speech, Hines told students about plans for Phase II of University Village, which will have two-bedroom apartments and house 678 students, a Pavilion park that will include a man-made lake and a walkway, and plans to computerize the financial aid system. Photo by Gitonga M'mbijjewe.

Creative writing club to release Ebon Dialects II; asks for student input

This semester the Creative Writing Club is planning to publish a second book of literature entitled Ebon Dialects II. The club is asking for anyone who is a writer to submit works for this second edition.

The Creative Writing Club is asking for poetry (maximum 3), short stories (maximum 1), essays (maximum 1), and songs (maximum 1). The club requires that all works submitted be dropped off at any of the meetings which are held every Monday

at 5 p.m. in room 243 of the Delco Building or at the English Department on the first floor of the Delco Building. All works must be submitted no later than Feb. 21. All works will be edited for taste and character.

The purpose of the Creative Writing Club is to bring about and unite the many diverse minds of the Prairie View A&M University campus and other surrounding areas. The club is for poets, novelists, short story writers, essayists and song writers.

The club offers writers a chance to improve on their talents and to receive constructive criticism from their peers. Anyone can attend the meetings, and anyone can join. The Creative Writing Club also offers support for anyone who would like to improve his or her writing skills.

For more information about the book and how to submit work please contact William Chapman or Robert Jones at 857-4050, or attend a meeting.

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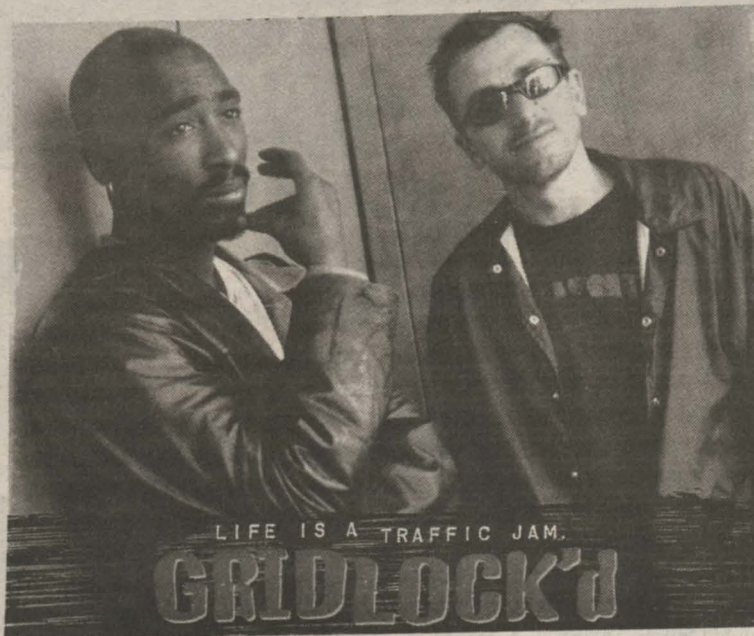
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Tupac Shakur's new film *Gridlock'd* proves that he will not only be missed by music fans but moviegoers as well

By BRIAN KEHINDE

Gridlock'd, a movie about two friends trying to kick their heroin habits, opens Wednesday in local theatres. It is the late Tupac Shakur's last film, and one of his best. As his many fans know, not only was Shakur a double-platinum selling recording artist, he was also a fine actor. He received critical acclaim for *Juice*, a gritty drama in which he played "Bishop", a gun-toting teen-ager whose hunger for street respect gets way out of control. But his character "Spoon" in *Gridlock'd* is much closer to the real Tupac - a musician, a poet, and a man desperately wanting to change and improve his situation. Spoon, Stretch (Tim Roth), and Cookie (Thandie Newton) are junkies sharing a ratty apartment in downtown Detroit. They are talented musicians of the spoken-word, beatnik variety, who play to packed clubs, and have a good chance of landing a record deal. On New Year's Eve, Cookie

and the other two have to carry her to the hospital when no taxis stop for them. Seeing Cookie lying there, clinging to life on a respirator, Spoon decides it's time to get clean. The following day, he and Stretch go to a clinic to get into a detox program, but are given the run-around. It turns out that they can't get into detox unless they have a Medicare card, and the application process could take months. Tupac Shakur and Tim Roth are two heroin addicts trying to kick their habits in Vondie Curtis-Hall's new film *Gridlock'd*. The two men tangle with a drug dealer along the way, who kills one of their friends, and starts to follow them everywhere they go. After Stretch and Spoon are implemented in the murder, they



try desperately to get off the streets by any means. The way they finally get some help is both sad and funny. Actor Vondie Curtis-Hall,

from the CBS series *Chicago Hope*, is the writer and first-time director of *Gridlock'd*. Curtis-Hall, who also portrays the drug dealer, has written a character-driven, reality-based piece about two likeable junkies who realize that getting clean isn't all that easy when no one gives a damn. Unlike *Trainspotting*, another recent film about heroin addiction, *Gridlock'd* humanizes the addicts and gets you to see there are two sides to the story. The dialogue is fresh, and the movie is pleasantly engaging. Curtis-Hall had experiences with dope and detox as a teenager growing up in Detroit, and without degrading his characters, he shows what happens when too much of a "good" thing (whether drugs, sex, or money) turns out not to be good at all. The movie has relatively little violence, and there is no heavy-handed moralizing tone, as so many Black films have, which moviegoers have become weary of. Curtis-Hall lets the audience judge the protagonists for themselves. The strong lead performances by Shakur, Roth, and Newton give *Gridlock'd* its quirkiness and originality. Shakur, especially, shines in this movie. Here, Tupac is smart, witty, and full of life, playing someone so close to himself, that you find yourself eerily chilled by his image. When the camera lingers on his face, you know you're looking at a doomed man, but Shakur looks more at peace here than in any of his other performances.

New peer group to educate students on domestic violence

By HOPE ALLEN

A new peer educators group has been established on the Prairie View A&M campus. Their goal is to develop and implement ways to educate students about domestic violence and issues related to domestic violence. The group is composed of eight student volunteers who were trained at a week-end retreat f Dec. 20 and 21. The group came about when PV was written into a domestic violence grant in conjunction with West Texas A&M University. The group was also formed after the distribution of the Student Awareness Survey which focused on issues such

as domestic violence, rape, alcohol, and drugs. The purpose of the survey was to see what students knew, thought, or felt about domestic violence issues as they pertain to their campus. The results of the survey would then determine what kind of programming was needed to change myths about domestic violence, and how to spread accurate information to students. The peer educators are creating a list of activities for the month of February and throughout the semester the group's chairman, Anthony Coe, said. One activity may give the group the opportunity to appear in a nationwide video with other schools in

the Texas A&M University system. The video will include skits to educate high school and college students on the same issues that Prairie View's peer educators are dealing with. Coe also said that one of the reasons he is participating in the group is that he feels there are more incidences of rape and domestic violence on campus than what some students realize. For more information about the peer educators call the Owens-Franklin Health Center at 2511 and ask for Anthony Coe or T.J. Pierre.



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Sports

PV runner, Shellie Dick, takes it all in stride --- balances academics, track stardom, keeps *Sonny* attitude

BY ERIC-CHAMEL GAITHER

Completely cordial, a bit country with a city flare, and always on the run - that's Shellie Dick. When it comes to discussing his numerous athletic accomplishments - being a member of four All-American relay teams, in one year, at the 1996 indoors and outdoors Southwestern Athletic Conference and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics championships - he is the dining room wall, humbly absorbing the engaging chat of his tenacity, but never responding, only to remain standing - with brace and foundation - as a solid wall does, implying tidbits of his human qualities by uttering an occasional "yes," or "thank you."

Not even a cross country runner by choice, Shellie - simply called Sonny by friends and family - twice finished near the top of the point roster for Prairie View, helping his team secure a decent ranking at the SWAC cross country championships, still he never proclaimed himself 'King of the Hill'. Instead, he praised freshman teammate Connard Marsh, nearly everyday the sun rose. "Good job Connard," Sonny would say, 'shoot, that boy did a heck-of-a-job."

That's Sonny in daily form, never claiming - always congratulating. Although instrumental in the Panthers 4x400-meter relay victory effort, Sonny insists he's no star, brushing off any bits of the heavens that may have befallen his shoulders. Sonny said coaches never put into his head that he could do better than the performances he was turning out. "I was just so depressed ... coaches talking about you're going to run the mile because you're stuck on a two minute half [800 meters]." He had found himself facing the dilemma of mental warfare, knowing - in his heart - that he could produce a quality time, but fighting himself - physically - to sync his thoughts with his actions.

But the Galena Park resident, by way of South Park, Houston, was right on time when he, after seemingly effortless begging, ran the fastest time he had ever run in his life at the Pelican

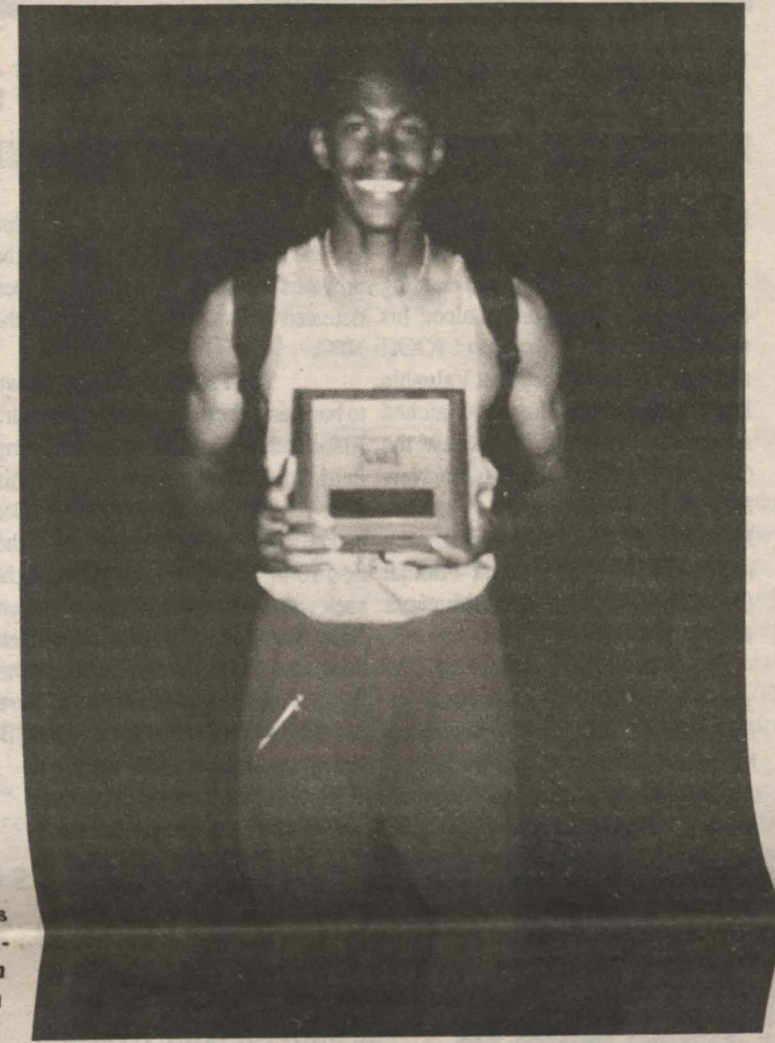
Relays, in Baton Rouge, La. "I believe that God put in my head that I can't let a man discourage me by the words he throws at me." So, Sonny options to keep on jumping over all the obstacles thrown him, and rightfully so; he was a jumper, not a runner, for his high school team, qualifying for regionals in the high jump, as a senior, and playing basketball with the same determination that has pushed him into a role as a team leader at Prairie View. "I really respect John, Ericel, James and Connard," reflects Sonny of the freshman distance runners, humorously adding of 1600-meter man Connard Marsh, "he can go on about his [running] business, but I can't let him get too far away, you know he's a miler," exclaims Sonny in his native Willy Nelson accent, 'I ain't no stud or nothing chief."

Sonny recalls the crazy stares the track team received at the NAIA outdoors championship, "People at nationals were looking at us like we were crazy because we were doing warm-ups, sprinting around the track; I was feeling good." After surgery, pleading and stress, it came down to the NAIA half-mile showdown, where Sonny ran a personal best in the 800 meters, 1:52.2, advancing him to the semifinals where he again ran his personal best, but failed to qualify for the finals. Because of that, he took his fury to the 4x400-meter relay, where he ran a third-leg split of 46.2 seconds, and opened a spacious gap between

PV and second place Central State Ohio.

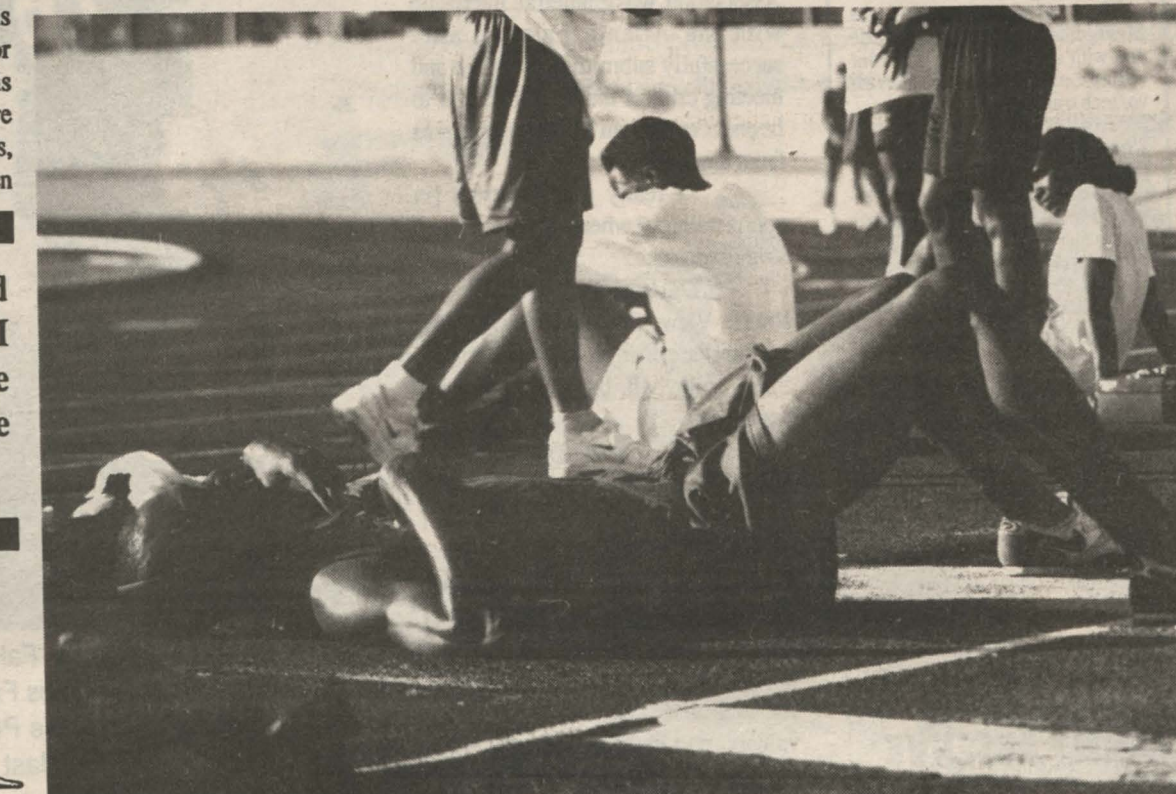
His belief in self had begun to return dividends. "I can do" became Sonny's philosophy, and what better time to have been convinced than in the midst of improvement. "I owe it all to coach Wright," who he accredits with breaking him of the days when he would, as he put it, "hide from cross country, poot, huff, breath, exhale - even stop ... everything but run." "To this day I can always thank coach Wright and coach Gilliard; we can look out for each other. Those are definitely some nice role models. Ninety percent of your year, you're with your coaches."

Aside from the loves of his life - mom, dad, siblings and Ann - Sonny jokingly adds that he's been involved in a one year affair, as each year brings a new team, and that he and team are still "going together." "I have good relationships with my teammates, we're all on one accord."



Dick, member of the gold-medal, nationally ranked PV 4x400-meter relay, stands contented with his All-American plaque.

below- Shellie Dick takes a break between Farlek quarters, while listening to Bone-Thugs-In-Harmony on his headphones. An NAIA All-American in the 4x400 meters, he is working to add the 800-meter run to his All-American honors this year. Photo by Eric-Chamel Gaither.



Sports

Packers win Super Bowl 35-21; revise Patriots' Constitution

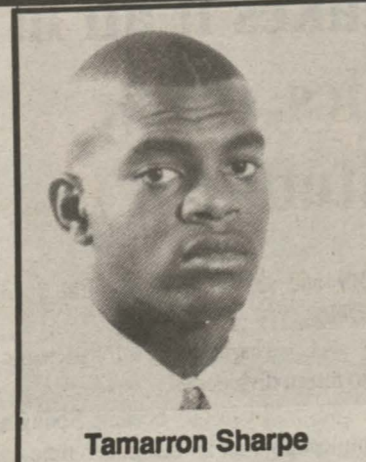
BY TONY "T-MAN" AUSTIN

Desmond Howard, evading the Heisman Trophy jinx, helped his team capture the Super Bowl XXXI ring and was named the Most Valuable Player of the game. The most watched sporting event in the world saw the Green Bay Packers defeat the New England Patriots 35-21. For the Packers, it showed just how prominent and dominant the National Football Conference is by winning its thirteenth straight SB victory.

Howard combined for 229 yards, giving him a SB record as the first special teams player to be named MVP, and was also noted for gaining the most all-purpose yards. It was Howard who ran back a 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown (the longest in SB history) that changed the momentum of the game after the Patriots had cut the score to a seven-point lead.

It was like a dream come true for the Packers. They had for the previous four consecutive seasons been defeated by the Dallas Cowboys in the NFC.

The Packers got right down to business when Brett Favre hit Andre Rison on a 68-yard bomb leaving Patriot defender Otis Smith eating his dust. Moments later, Chris Jacke kicked a 31-yard field goal to make the lead 10-0. The Patriots marched right back with 14 unanswered points when Drew Bledsoe hit Keith Byars and Ben Coates on 1 and 6-yard strikes. The Packers came right back when Favre threw a 81-yard TD pass (another SB record) to Antonio Freeman.



Tamarron Sharpe

The SWAC player-of-the-week is Tamarron Sharpe, who was 11-of-17 against Southern-Baton Rouge for 22 pts. Sharpe played 28 minutes in that game and pulled four rebounds.

PV student sports trainer has 'good' internship with Atlanta Falcons

BY ERIC-CHAMEL GAITHER

For most people a 17-hour work day is out of the question, but ask senior sports trainer Eric Fredericks and there are no second thoughts about what he refers to as the "opportunity of a lifetime."

Fredericks, a member of the National Athletic Training Association, was granted an internship with the Atlanta Falcons, after successfully submitting a resume and meeting criteria that qualified him to be one of more than 120 selected interns from a nationwide pool.

"I really got interested [in sports training] when I got to college," said Fredericks.

During his four years at Prairie View, Fredericks has nursed his fair share of injuries for basketball, track, volleyball, baseball and tennis teams.

John Mayes, PV trainer, said he received "nothing but good reports in regards to his [Fredericks] internship."

Mayes who has worked with the Chicago White Sox and Houston Oilers said, "This is something you got to love to do, you're not going to get a lot of praise. The trainer plays a valuable part in the athletic program."

Basketball

continued from page 1

Still, coach Vanderbilt says "a formal complaint about the officiating" will be filed with the SWAC offices in New Orleans.

"I'm proud of this team, it has worked hard," said Vanderbilt.

And hard it did work, leading Tulane in a pre-season game, 37-36, at the half, before again relinquishing the lead. Said Patton, "No team has beaten us, we've beaten ourselves."

But the under dogs - or cats - look to definitely hush naysayers when above-the-rim action resumes for its second half. Counted out in every poll and not even counted by most, aside from the faithful few, the Panthers have now forced their way into the top rankings and prepared themselves for some rounds of NCAA playoffs action.

Former mascot, current cheerleader manager Tyrone Wright said, "I've seen mental and physical progress, they'll be contenders."

Let it not go unsaid that the unity of this new group is nothing but evident, as witnessed by Virgil Pipkins, a junior computer science major who

says, "They play as a team and act like a team. You see them together beyond what goes on on the court."

Bat-her- up! Lady Panthers step up to the plate; plan strong season

By ANTHONY DABNEY JR.

This year the Prairie View A&M Lady Panthers are getting ready to knock down a new sport, adding a new weapon to their arsenal of sports: softball. This season the women's softball team will be the thing to look out for.

Head coach A.D. James and his three assistant coaches - Clarence Wolfe, pitcher and catcher specialist, Nicole Green, outfield specialist, and Nicky Collins, infield specialist - have assembled to debut some spring swing.

With coaches James and Wolf already having had seven years of experience coaching summer league softball, they are looking forward to giving everyone a run for their money.

James said, "We should hold up pretty well. I'm not looking to win SWAC, but I am looking forward to competing strongly - the girls look good; they're coming together just right. It seems that we only have to improve some minor details," he said.

The Lady Panthers are working very hard toward getting things right with practice at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Following their first game, March 7, there will be ten home games. The ladies are looking forward to representing the University and having Panther support.

Said coach Wolfe, "We should be competitive in SWAC. We are a young and very athletic team; the only thing we lack is experience. I look to win and compete." Two Lady Panthers, Rae Lynn Gaut and Maria Perkins, are holding down double-sport roles, playing basketball and softball.



During an Atlanta Falcons practice, PV student trainer Eric Fredericks nurses Falcon lineman Anton Davis. Fredericks participated in the Pro Football Athletic Trainers Society internship program last summer which placed him with the Falcons.



Sports

As baseball season begins, Panther team, coaches look to change image of PV sports from the dusty diamond

BY FUZZY FINLEY

Time to mow the grass and water the field, another season of America's favorite pastime is around the corner. That's right. Baseball is here and so is the Prairie View A&M Panther baseball team. After a disappointing 2-40 record last season, the Panthers are ready to hit the field with a fresh new attitude: to win the SWAC.

Leading the Panthers into the 1997 season is Coach John Tankersley and senior captain Adrian Wilkes. Along side Wilkes are a few of his teammates from last season: Pat Brown, Corey Fink, Adam Frank, Reginald Thompson, Chris Williams, Rosh "Shmoove" Handley, and Deyon Guillory. Tankersley feels he has a good group of returning players, as well as freshman this season who are dedicated, work hard together and have pride. "This is one of the better groups I've had this decade." Overall coach

Tankersley is looking forward to improving the team record and winning the Western division of SWAC.

With incoming freshmen and transfers like Jeff Wells, Larlo Dotson, Tony Hernandez, Thomas Oliver, Brandon Mc Nair, and Donta Hamilton, who is one of the top hitters for the Panthers, the team is looking to start a winning tradition in baseball. Along with starting the tradition, the Panther baseball team hopes the tradition will spread throughout the athletic program. When asked about the team's expectations and individual goals, catcher Rosh "Shmoove" Handley replied, "We plan to have a winning season and make the SWAC tournament. As far as myself, I would like to be all SWAC and bat over .300." Teammates Will Joiner and Davone "Pee" Pigotty feel the same way. "We want to have a good productive season and bring a

championship back to the athletic program," said Joiner. "Individually, I want to do whatever I can to make my teammates better, along with keeping my skills solid." Pigotty wants to bring a SWAC championship back to Prairie View as well as pride back to the athletic program.

Although they have moved up to the collegiate level, the pitcher and catcher combination of freshmen's Brandon Mc Nair and Jeff Wells are eyeing the same goal as their upper classmen teammates. "My expectations are high and our goal is to make the SWAC tournament," said Wells. Mc Nair has the same attitude. "I would like to win SWAC, for everybody to play hard, and win a lot of games, as well as play as hard as I can, be team oriented and do whatever it takes to win." In general, the Panthers have one goal in common and that is to win the SWAC tournament and bring pride back to athletics.



Washington picked as assistant coach to World University Games team

BY ERIC-CHAMEL GAITHER

When the World University Games take place in August, head women's track and field coach Essie Washington will be there - with a stopwatch and clipboard in hand. Washington has been selected to travel to Sicily, Italy, as the assistant coach to the U.S. team.

"It's an honor because your peers are out there selecting you," said Washington, a former coach for the U.S. team at the Pan-African Games. And why not Washington? After all, she holds one of the oldest standing records on the Texas state meet books, a 400-meter time that remains the 2A record. Known in

Washington has surrounded herself with the best personnel and begun to create an intensely electric atmosphere that could produce a conference championship for '97 athletics, in addition to several All-Americans. Time will tell!

talent - by many of the present-day scholarship athletes.

Washington is one of several prodigies to have worked with Barbara Jacket, coach of the first-ever women's collegiate track and field champions - the Prairie View A&M Lady Panthers - several World Championship Games teams and, most recently, the 1992 U.S. women's track and field Olympic team.

Two of Washington's athletes have begun careers that look to possibly reflect the success of this Drake Relays hall of famer, those two being Christine Gray, NAIA All-American, NCAA All-American, and Yvette French, also an NAIA and NCAA qualifier, in addition to the '96 Olympic trials.

Assisted by former four-time Jamaican Olympian Carol Cummings, Washington has surrounded herself with the best personnel and begun to create an intensely electric atmosphere that could produce a conference championship for '97 athletics, in addition to several All-Americans. Time will tell!

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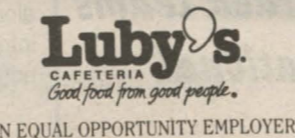


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below-During a pre-season practice, Lady Panther point guard Tenopra Sheppard kicks off her shoes and takes a breather.



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Sports

Tiger Woods: Heeeeeee's Great!!!!

BY M. MICHELLE HICKS

Eldrick (Tiger) Woods is the son of Earl Woods, a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, and his wife, Kultida, a native of Thailand. He was nicknamed "Tiger" after a Vietnamese soldier and friend of his father.

Born Dec. 30, 1975, Woods grew up in Cypress, California, 35 miles southeast of Los Angeles. He was not out the crib before he took an interest in golf, at age six months, watching as his father hit golf balls into a net and imitating his swing. He appeared on the "Mike Douglas Show" at age two, putting with Bob Hope. He shot 48-for-nine holes at age three and was featured in Golf Digest at age five.

Woods won Optimist International Junior tournaments six times from ages six to 15, and also won the Insurance Youth Golf Classic at age 14, when he was the youngest ever to win that title. He won his first U.S. Junior Amateurs, the next year, 1991, and has seven additional victories.

In 1991, at age 15, Woods was the youngest ever winner of the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship. He became the first to win that title twice in 1992 and won for a third time in 1993. At age 18, in 1994, he was the youngest-ever winner of the U.S. Amateur, rallying for a second time in 1995.

Seven more titles, including two U.S. Junior Amateurs, followed in 1992, at age 16, the Nissan Los Angeles Open and in three more PGA Tour events in 1993. He made the 36-hole cut and tied.

He is the only player in USGA history to have won both the Junior and Junior Amateur titles.

In two years at Stanford University, Woods won ten collegiate events, including seven of his last nine tournaments, concluding with the NCAA crown which featured a course record 67 at The Honors Club in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His other amateur title included the 1994 Western Amateur.

Eldrick (Tiger) Woods compiled one of the most impressive amateur records in golf history, winning six USGA national

championships plus the NCAA title, before turning professional on August 28, 1996, eight months past his 20th birthday.

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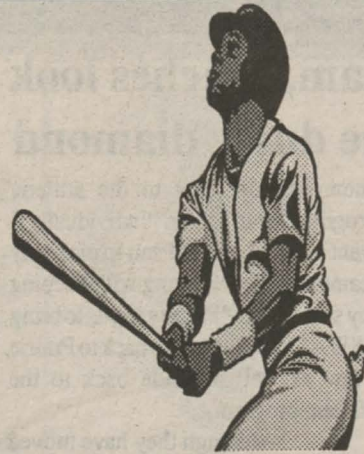


Tiger Woods (Photo from Golf Journal)

WANTED

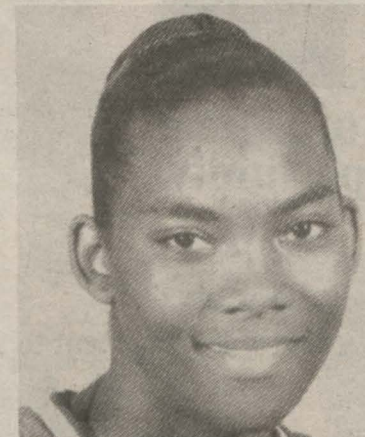
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Congratulations to the men's and women's track teams for a great showing at the McNeese Invitational Feb. 1 in Lake Charles, La.



Spring 1997 Softball Roster

- Lawana Aguilard
- Jawana Aguilard
- Nashiche Anderson
- Ramona Carr
- Lakwan Clough
- LaToya Davis
- LiChina Epps
- Tanisha Franklin
- Stacy Frazier
- Rae Lynn Gaut
- Maurisa Graves
- Tarnisha Heard
- Jarita James
- Kesia Lang
- Kelinisha Ledet
- Shatara Lock
- Karen Neal
- Angel Oliver
- Genesis Patte
- Shaniqua Parker
- Maria Perkins
- Kimberly Scott
- Tamika Spencer
- Rhonda Tatum
- Nicole Tuck
- Carla Tompkins
- Gwendolyn Warren
- LaTreece Washington
- LaTresha Williams
- LaTrina Williams
- Canetra Wilson



Felicia Tarver scored 24 pts. vs. TSU, for a victorious effort.

PVU vs. JSU

Marquis Patton scored 22 pts. to lead the Panthers 80-65 past the JSU Tigers, while King Whetstone (11 pts.) and Jocquinn Arch (12 pts.) were also in double figures for the Panthers. Trent Pulliam led the Tigers with 25 pts. Shawn Scoggins led the Panthers with four assists.

PVU vs. ASU

The PVU Panthers derouted the ASU Warriors with Tamarron Sharpe scoring 20 pts. and making two blocks, two steals. The Panthers' King Whetstone had six assists, three steals, while Jocquinn Arch (17 pts.) and Marquis Patton (10 pts.) posted double figures. Warriors Reginald Harris (16 pts.) and Darrick McGriff (15 pts.) were no. 1 and no. 2 scorers for Alabama State.

PVU vs. GSU

Tamarron Sarpe had a double-double night, 10 rebs., 15 pts. and Marquis Patton, 13 pts. to lead the Panthers in scoring, as the GSU Tigers upset the Panthers 70-67. The Tigers had four players in double figures: Mark Meredith (24 pts.), Leroy Hollingshed (11 pts.), Kevin Howard (10 pts.), Malcolm Collins (10 pts.).

PVU vs. MVSU

Five Panthers in double figures, King Whetstone (11 pts.), Tamarron Sharpe (24 pts.), Marquis Patton (10 pts.), Saladin Bilodeau (11 pts.), and Kevin Bell (12 pts.), were not enough to overcome controversial officiating, as the MVSU Delta Devils were awarded an 83-76 decision - their favor

PVU vs. ASU

Double-double, 11 rebs., 19 pts. from Tamarron Sharpe to lead the Panthers over the ASU Braves. Saladin Bilodeau (16 pts.) and Jocquinn Arch (10 pts.) were in the double figures bracket, as PV avoided upset, 81-80. ASU forward Brian Adams racked up 28 pts., 10 rebs. to lead the doubles contest for the Braves.

PVU vs. SU

Southern's Vandale Thomas fouled PV's Kevin Bell, who sank two free throws with eight seconds in the game, pulling the Panthers past the Jaguars, 73-72. Bell (11 pts.), Aron Thompson (10 pts.) and Tamarron Sharpe (22 pts.) hit the twin numerics for the Panthers.

PV vs. TSU

At the half PVU led by one point, before the referees decided the three of them had at least one year of NCAA eligibility left and commenced to play the game to TSU's favor, 88-76; the Tigers still have to set foot - along with MVSU and Grambling - into the Baby Dome, and it won't be nothing nice.

Viewpoints

Let's not get hooked on Ebonics

By K. CHAMAINE HENDERSON
Editor-In Chief

'Cause I be an Ebny person an 'cause I grew up wit Ebny folk, I learnt a diffrent talk. When I be wit my friends, an' when I be wit my family, we talk like Ebny people do. I close da doe and I make grosries at tha stoe fo my mama. Sometime, I sit on tha flo an wach TB ta get my kicks. I ain't trin ta be like allose utha folk that don't look like me an don't ack like me an don't think like I think. 'Cause they don't be all that Ebny be.

However, my parents and my teachers cared enough about me and my education to teach me that there is a time and a place for everything. In this country people speak English. In English I go to the store to buy groceries when my mother asks (not acks). Slang and incorrect language have a place in every society.

While relaxing with close acquaintances and among friends is that time and that place. Not the schoolroom.

Ebony children speak the way they do because somewhere in their parents' past, teachers, grandparents or maybe the parents themselves didn't take the time to speak correctly. That is the whole story. Period. Legitimizing incorrect English is not the way to teach people to speak correctly, time and caring are the keys. Proponents of Ebonics are trying to help inner-city children to compete in modern society and help them feel better about themselves. This is a good thing. They say that teaching children how to read the way they speak will help them achieve more; if they achieve more, then they will feel better about themselves and want to learn more. But is lowering the already low standards in public, and especially inner-city public schools

the answer? Is telling the children that the wrong thing that they are doing is right? No, it is in fact wrong. The ends do not justify the means.

Try legitimizing rap



samples and rhythm and blues to get children interested in learning about music. Try putting Shakespeare and Chaucer into modern terms and language to get children reading. Try legitimizing real languages like Patois, Tex-Mex, and Creole (languages that are a mixture of several real languages, not just miseducation) to boost the education of oppressed people. Try adopting literature and texts with Ebony faces and Ebony topics and Ebony values to get Ebony children interested in learning.

If Ebony people are going to compete and be successful in the world that already exists, Ebony people must embrace their culture to build inner strength and self pride. But the America that exists in 1997 is not an Ebony world. If we are going to survive in "Massa's" world, we have to learn to speak massa's language. If he doesn't understand what we say, he's

not going to take the time to try to figure it out.

When people from other countries come to America, they are expected to learn to speak English in order to succeed. They are expected to learn correct pronunciations, correct euphemisms and correct English word and phrase order. If we expect this of foreigners, why is it such a stretch to teach our children to do the same? Again, English is the language we are taught to speak. If we fail to learn this basic skill we will continue to be oppressed

The Ebony community in America has matured enough to know that there is a problem in our communities. When will we begin to think about how to solve them reasonably, and stop placing blame. If we take initiative to teach ourselvessurvival skills, and teach them to our children and to our friends and go into the community and teach them to strangers, our situation in America will begin to change.

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Entertainment

Redman bounces back with *Muddy Waters*

By MICHAEL HINES

Reggie Noble, a.k.a. Redman, a native of Newark, N.J., burst back on to the hip hop scene with his third LP entitled *Muddy Waters*. This LP is in total contrast to his last project, *Dare Iz A Darkside*, lyrically and production wise. However, his latest release is more similar, stylistically, to his first album, *What? The Album*, which was released in 1992, and gave Redman a name in the rap scene. Since his first full length album was released in '92, many things have changed in Redman's life, yet, many things have stayed quite the same.

which is otherwise filed with underground "East Coast" beats that East Coast enthusiast, such as myself, crave.

Redman continues his tradition of soopaman luva joints with



Redman

"Soopaman Luva 3". This song combines two entirely different beats. It starts off with a slowed down version of the beat Nas used on his now classic "One Love", then abruptly picks up the pace and goes into a new Sermon produced beat which showcases Sermon at his best. Another track that is sure to get your heads nodding is "Pick It Up". On this track Redman discusses his love

for marijuana and the joy of finding a bag of weed on the floor.

Muddy Waters includes cameos from Method Man, Keith Murray, K-Solo, and Eric Sermon. As stated earlier, it is reminiscent of his first LP. In an interview on *Rap City*, Redman stated that he wanted to get back to the style that first gained him his notoriety. He wanted to make songs that he could tour with, "joints to rock the crowd with". I think it is safe to say with his latest work he accomplished that.

Lyrical wise, Redman does not possess the skills of say Nas or Eightball of Eightball & MJG. However, he does hold his own, and with the help of Sermon, *Muddy Waters* is Redman's best effort yet. This last LP follows the platinum selling single he did with Method Man, "How High". On deck for Redman is a six song EP featuring Method Man that is due for release this summer.

Overall, *Muddy Waters* is definitely worth checking out, and if it is any indication of the direction Redman is headed, his future in the ever changing rap game seems to be much brighter than his past.

Eric Sermon, a fellow Def Jam recording artist, is still Redman's producer and did most of the tracks on *Muddy Waters*. However, since his last album, Redman began to diversify himself and got into a little production of his own, including the first released single "It's Like That", a duo with rap artist K-Solo.

One of the best tracks on the LP is a Redman produced effort, "Smoke Buddah". It samples Rick James' hit "Mary Jane". This cut adds a much needed party track to the LP,

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20 Questions

1. Why is it that PVAMU produces the most Black engineers in the country but the computer systems are always down?
2. What does Marriot think they're doing with this new poker chip eating system?
3. Who wants to walk around Alumni with a dirty plate?
4. Can we please get another ATM in the MSC?
5. Why is it that the fools who stole the ATM out of the MSC last semester didn't get any money out of it?
6. Is that *In My Bed* video by Dru Hill wild or what?
7. Was there anyone who really thought the New England Patriots were going to win Super Bowl XXXI?
8. Why was Li'l Penny's Super Bowl XXXI Party the bomb?
9. Why is Dr. Aluka the only physical science (PHSC 1123) professor?
10. What was the purpose of that Lexus 450 in the AKA's probate show?
11. Why is it that sometimes there are more people in the MSC gameroom than in the library?
12. What's the purpose of having a gate at the entrance of the campus when the guard is always sleep?
13. Why is KPVI designed for the locals instead of the students?
14. Why is it that Dome parties always end before the D.J. even breaks a sweat?
15. Why are there more roaches residing in Fuller Hall than students?
16. Why did it take two years to renovate the Administration Building, but University Village was up in 6 months?
17. Did everybody get leather jackets for Christmas?
18. Why does everybody think they are Jane Fonda for the first few weeks of aerobics?
19. Are Elvis and Tupac hiding together?
20. What do you think?

The Panther would like to hear some of your questions. Please submit any question you may have to Hilliard Hall, 2nd floor.

PHAT DIME

1. Can't Nobody Hold Me Down.....Puff Daddy f/ Mase
2. For You.....Monica
3. In My Bed.....Dru Hill
4. The Dip.....Freak Nasty
5. No Time.....Li'l Kim f/ Puff Daddy
6. Get It Together.....702
7. Showin' Love.....Telah f/ Eightball & MJG
8. One In A Million.....Aaliyah
9. On & On.....Erykah Bahdu
10. Un-break My Heart.....Toni Braxton

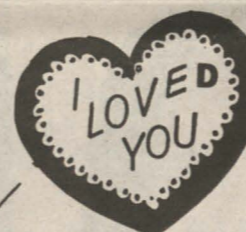
Poetry

The Final Step



The final step in a relationship is filled with love and gliss, and as our love grows, it is sealed with a kiss. As I look into your eyes, I see a beautiful blue sky, and I promise you baby, as long as we are together, I will never lie. The things that we do are between us two, and I believe within my heart that our love is true. As we journey into a world of love and happiness I must thank Almighty God, through him I feel eternally blessed. All the men you dated were blind, but not all men are alike, because I am one of a kind. Your love was sent from heaven above. I promise you baby as we stay together, I will give you all my love. We will go through this relationship side by side, as I looked into your big beautiful eyes, I almost cried. At first we had a beautiful friendship, and together we will make that final step.

—Davis Monroe III



During the silent nights
My broken heart longed to hold you near
as I reminisce about our past
Trying to hold back these silent tears.
When we were together
I knew in my heart that time stood still
Especially when I kissed your face
Revealing to you how I really feel.
We grew as one
Loving one another in the strongest way
as I told you how much I cared
and that my heart would never go astray.
Your precious love
Seemed like an endless flame
That no one could ever erase

Until I held you in my arms
caressing you with the warmth of my loving embrace.
As I look at this picture of us
I tend to reminisce on how our love grew
until you broke my heart
after the many things that we have been through.

— Melvin Douglas McClain Jr.



- My Wants**
- I want to give you a smile,
a smile that will last longer than the Nile**
- I want to make you relaxed,
suck your toes-
massage your feet- Just kick back.**
- I want to give you love never before seen,
a love that will last in life and in your dreams.**
- I want to make you a queen,
where others failed I will give you everything.**

**I want to take your troubles away and your pain,
make your life pure-never again live in vain.**

**I want to take care of your child that daddy left behind,
be his father figure and claim him as mine.**

**I want to erase every myth and doubt,
I want to be your Black man that every Black woman dreams about.**

**I want to make your dreams come true.
Take you from top to bottom, that's what I'll do.**

**I want to be your man where others failed.
Let me be part of your life and time will tell.**

—J. Drake

1997-98 Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant Contestants



Hermoine Delco
Junior/Nutrition major
Houston, TX



Miss Black and Gold 1996-97
Chrystal Bender



Tanisha LaRu Cosby
Sophomore/Psychology
Des Moines, IA

Miss Black and Gold
Scholarship Pageant

February 11, 1997

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Yolanda Brown
Freshman/Psychology and
Criminal Justice



Tara Vonshay White
Freshman/Computer Science
Houston, TX



Aminah-Iman Lewis
Sophomore/Biology
Philadelphia, PA

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Student Organizations

"TAG"

YOUR PVAMU PRIDE



Collegiate License Plate Contest for campus organizations

Guidelines

1. Must be a recognized registered base organization on the campus of Prairie View A&M University and in good standing.
2. Each organization must sell a minimum of 50 PVAMU Collegiate License Plates.
3. Sign-up in the Office of Student Activities from January 31 to February 7, 1997.
4. Contest begins February 10, 1997
Closing April 11, 1997
5. Winners will be announced the 1st week in May. Date to be determined.
6. Prizes: 1st - \$500.00, 2nd - \$200.00, 3rd - \$100.00

For additional information, contact Mrs. Sherylle Fuller in the office of Institutional Development at (409)857-4091 or Ms. Denise Simmons in the office of Student Activities at (409)857-2018.