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## Panther- February 1997 - Vol. LXXIV, No.2

Prairie View A&M University

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# The Panther

February 19, 1997

Volume 74, No. 2

## Cosby crowned Miss Black and Gold 1997

By JO-CAROLYN GOODE

A teary-eyed Tanisha Cosby was crowned Miss Black and Gold 1997-1998 Feb. 11 in the \$500 scholarship pageant sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha.

Cosby also won best talent for her rendition of Natalie Cole's *Inseparable*. First runner-up was Yolanda Brown and second runner-up was Aminah Lewis. An award for Most Ads Sold and Miss Congeniality was won by Tara White.

"I will remember the friendships and memories that I have made because of the pageant," said Cosby.

Cosby is a 19-year-old sophomore psychology major from Des Moines, Iowa. She participates in the Baptist Student Movement, Campus Activities Board, the Psychology Club,

and the American Association of Black Psychologists. Some of Cosby's community services include volunteering for the Sylvia Garcia Campaign. After graduation, Cosby plans to attend graduate school at the University of Houston.

The pageant opened with grand performances by the Classic Dance Ensemble called Gypsy and Miss Black and Gold 1996-1997 Krystal Bender.

After four long months of hard work, Lewis, White, Cosby, Hermoine Delco, and Brown dazzled the audience with their performances in the swimsuit, talent, evening gown, and question and answer competitions. The contestants' talents ranged from dramatic interpretations to dance and song.

Cosby as Miss Black and Gold will be the female representative

of the fraternity, will hold seminars on various topics, and participate in community service activities. Cosby said her goals are to serve as a positive role model for all women on campus. She plans to host seminars for incoming freshman to give them guidance through their first year. Also, she said she wants to join forces with other campus queens to help upperclassman as the need arises.

Miss Black and Gold 1996, Bender, leaves this bit of advice to the new Miss Black and Gold, "Do your best in fulfilling your responsibilities as Miss Black and Gold 1997-98. Work diligently in accomplishing your goals during your reign. Most importantly have fun."

Cosby's next step is to compete for the state title of Miss Black and Gold on Feb. 22 in Fort Worth.



Tanisha Cosby (right), newly crowned Miss Black and Gold stands proudly with her bouquet and last year's pageant winner Krystal Bender. Photo by Gitonga M'mbljewe.

## Houston Rodeo honors Prairie View on Black Heritage Day

By KEISHA SMITH

Under the direction of Silas Collins, director of student center operations, Prairie View will be represented on Black Heritage Day Feb. 22, at the Houston Livestock & Rodeo show.

This will be the third year that Prairie View has participated in this event. This year's theme is "Looking Backward to Move Forward - Then and Now."

Collins said, "This is an opportunity to showcase Prairie View and give recognition to our history."

Collins along with 15 other alumni volunteers started five months ago to prepare for the exhibit. "We're trying to show some history and get a lot of people involved with Black Heritage Day," said Collins.

Exhibits will go back as far as the early trailrider days and include a replica of one of the first chuckwagons as well as the solar powered car from the engineering department will be displayed.

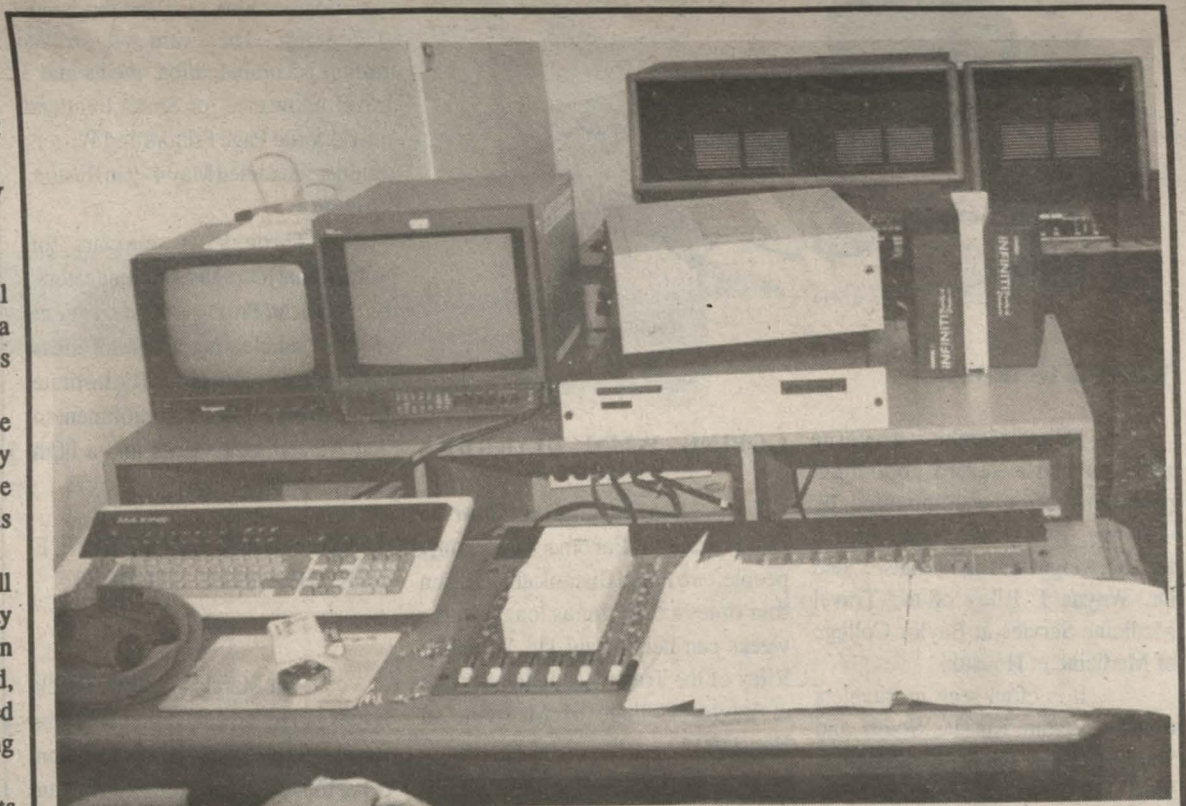
Pictures on exhibit will range from the class of 1924 to a present-day overview of the school's campus.

Departments all over the campus are getting involved by participating in the event and everyone is making the effort to make this year's exhibit one of the best.

Collins hopes that there will be a big turn out because there's plenty to learn about Prairie View. In working with the program, he said, "He couldn't believe how interested and inquisitive many of the young spectators were last year."

The Rodeo gives out tickets to many Houston area elementary schools and the children get a big "kick" out of the event.

In addition to giving tickets to various schools, the Houston Livestock & Rodeo Show also awards approximately \$8 million in scholarship money to state education institutions in Texas. Collins said, "We're trying to make sure Prairie View gets its share."



## Moving on up

A week ago, this room in the Communications Department was just an empty storage space. Now it is filled with new editing equipment for the Prairie View cable television station. A new Maxine graphics generator, a one disk compact disk changer sound editor (both shown above) Beta-sp component video machines, a three-camera live-feed monitor system and three new television cameras scheduled to arrive later this month will enable the studio to air live or prerecorded programs to be produced here at Prairie View. Photo by Gitonga M'mbljewe.

# Briefly

## \$1000 CHIPS QUINN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Tiara Ellis, a communications major from Lancaster, Texas was selected in national competition from all the journalism schools in America to be a Chips Quinn Scholar by the Freedom Forum of Reston, Virginia. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and participate this summer in a paid training session in Virginia and then serve in an intensive paid internship at a newspaper in the San Francisco area.

This international foundation, dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit, sponsors this tough competition for students interested in journalism careers. The department of communications has produced two other Chips Quinn scholars in 1992 and 1995 and is proud to announce yet another recipient in 1997.

Tiara is also a member of the '97 athletics team.



### WHAT IS GIARDIA?

"Giardia lamblia is a parasite that can cause severe abdominal problems, often accompanied by diarrhea, low-grade fever, chills, fatigue, weight loss and malaise," said Dr. Wayne J. Riley of the Travel Medicine Service at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

It is often seen in travelers returning from Russia, South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Mexico, but it can also be acquired by drinking from streams in any wilderness area including the U.S. and Canada.

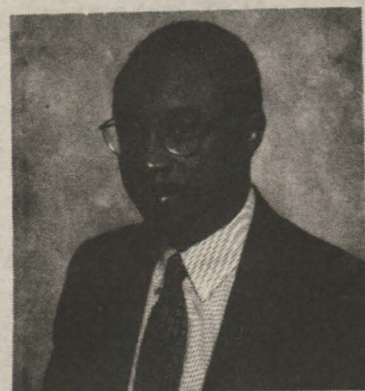
"Do not drink untreated stream water," Riley said, "and be particular about what you eat and drink in countries where giardia is a problem."

The disease, if contracted, can be treated with drugs prescribed by a physician.

## MEANS HELPS UPGRADE PV CABLE STATION EQUIPMENT

Carol Means, assistant professor in the department of communications at Prairie View A & M University is currently assisting the department in upgrading its laboratory for students majoring in journalism, radio/television and broadcast. She is trying to bring the department the current new media applications which do things such as design web pages, adding audio and video to web pages and multi-media design.

Since the project began in 1993, the department has added a 30-station computer lab. Students use the computers to do newswriting and in television production as a multi-media laboratory. The radio station has the capacity now to do non-linear audio production but most of the work is still done the traditional way. It has been automated to computer-driven menus used to program the station and edit music.



Lewis A. Smith

## SMITH HONORED WITH FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The American Press Institute has awarded its 1997 Minority Journalism Educators Fellowship to Lewis A. Smith of Prairie View A & M University's department of communications.

An announcement by fellowship coordinator Patricia DeFrancesco named Smith as "the successful candidate among those considered" this year for the annual fellowship. The award will provide tuition accommodation, meals and a travel allowance for Smith to attend the Editorial Page Editors and Writers seminar scheduled May 4-9 in Reston, Virginia.

Through its seminars for professional journalists and educators, the American Press Institute serves as a forum and clearing house for ideas about journalistic quality. The Institute strives to encourage a commitment to First Amendment values and a high standard public service.

## TECH VIDEO CONFERENCE FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

On March 17, 1997, Black Issues in Higher Education will join forces with the Black, Hispanic, Asian & Pacific American, American Indian & Alaska Native American Caucuses of the American Association for Higher Education to look into technology's crystal ball and bring you an outstanding video conference entitled "Learning Technologies and Students of Color: Strategies for Enhancing Access and Opportunities."

This live, interactive program will present a panel

comprised of the nation's highly regarded and prolific educators to discuss how colleges and universities can employ the tools of technology to improve and extend the learning experiences of students of color.

## PV STUDENT RECEIVES JORDAN AWARD

Prairie View A & M University senior Monica Martinez is a recipient of the first annual Association of Texas Professional Educators Barbara Jordan Memorial Scholarship recently awarded by the ATPE.

Martinez is one of five college students statewide to receive the honor. The scholarship was established in 1996 to honor the life of the late congresswoman and educator. It will be presented annually to upperclassmen and graduate students enrolled in teacher preparation programs at predominately ethnic minority colleges and universities.



Dr. Natalie Robertson

## PV INSTRUCTOR EARNS PH.D IN AMERICAN STUDIES

Natalie Robertson, instructor in the Benjamin Banneker Honors college, has been awarded the Ph.D in American studies from the University of Iowa. A native of Richmond, Va., Robertson holds a bachelor's degree in history and two master's degrees. Her doctoral dissertation was titled "The African Ancestry of the Founders of Africatown, Alabama."

Here, she teaches American history and senior honors colloquium.

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# World News

Here's the latest news from the Associated Press

(Washington) - The standoff between American Airlines and their pilots has been temporarily postponed by a Presidential Emergency Board that will consider both arguments. The three-member board has 30 days to recommend a settlement. If either side rejects the deal, the pilots can again strike after 30 days and only Congress can stop them.

birth to a boy in a Los Angeles hospital.

(Washington) - G.O.P. Congressional leaders are vowing an all out effort to end affirmative action which they call "affirmative racism". Their pledge came at a Washington dinner honoring Ward Connerly who is the black man steered California's anti-affirmative action initiative to victory.

(Los Angeles) - Will President Clinton become a Harvard dad? "The Los Angeles Times" reports Chelsea Clinton has been accepted to Harvard University on early admission. No word on whether the first daughter plans to accept that offer.

In an effort to make air bag safety "cool", Chrysler is beginning a three million-dollar campaign. It will use popular television, Bill Nye, "The Science Guy", to tell kids the safest place to be in a car is the back seat.

(Corpus Christi) - About 800 employees of the Corpus Christi Army Depot will lose their jobs. Cutbacks are planned for November and in October 1998.

China denies any wrongdoing, but the Justice Department is investigating the possibility that Chinese Embassy officials in Washington helped plan foreign contributions to the Democrats last year.

(Austin) - The governor and the comptroller remain about 200 million dollars apart on property tax cuts. The comptroller says that's how much the governor is short in his plan to give property owners a break.

The entire Kansas delegation to Congress has vowed to fight for the repeal of the Wright Amendment. The 1979 rule that restricts nonstop commercial flights from Dallas' Love Field to Texas and its four adjoining states.

(Los Angeles) - There's word Michael Jackson is a father. Sources say the entertainer's wife, Debbie Rowe gave

## This Week

Feb. 18th  
Networking seminar  
Softball- PV vs McNeese  
6 pm- SGA meeting  
ΓΦΔ - Jesus 101  
7 pm CAB Movie night  
ΔΣΘ- seminar  
Healthy lifestyles  
10 pm ΑΛΩ- prayer  
Feb. 19th  
9 am- 3 pm Career Fair  
7 pm AKA- seminar  
CAB- movie night  
ΓΣΣ- Test taking  
Strategies  
KAΨ- seminar

Feb. 20th  
Engineering and  
Architecture Alumni Day  
Basketball- PV vs Oral  
Roberts  
Softball- PV vs Houston  
Baptist  
7 pm- ΑΦΑ- seminar  
10 pm- ΑΑΩ- prayer  
Feb 21st  
5 pm- CAB Pep Rally  
9 pm- CAB Bowling trip  
Feb 22nd  
B-ball- PV vs TSU  
women 5:30 men 7:30  
8 am- TASP Testing  
2 pm- Softball-  
PV vs Centenary

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Chairman and CEO

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## LOOK FOR US ON CAMPUS:

February 19  
• Career Fair  
• Information Session,  
President's Dining  
Room, 6pm

February 20-21  
• Interviews in the  
Placement Office

# EBONY HISTORY MORE THAN JUST A MONTH AT PV

## Black Indians left out of history

from the Spring 1997 issue of American Legacy Magazine

In 1920 the historian Carter G. Woodson, founder of Black History Week, wrote that entire libraries were devoted to studies of the relationship between Europeans and the Africans they enslaved and between Europeans and Native Americans. But, said Woodson, the third part of the triangle remained unexplored. "One of the longest unwritten chapters in the history of the United States is the treating of the relations of the Negroes and the Indians."

And what of people who are both? The very notion of a Black Indian has most whites shaking their heads in disbelief or smiling at what

sounds like a joke, a myth or an unlikely play on words. No one remembers any such person appearing in any textbook, a Western novel or Hollywood movie...

For centuries Africans and Indians remained

the colonial settlements.)

Living in the shadow of Europe's New World Empire, the maroons acquired a reputation as relentless fighters. Some formed outlaw bands, becoming raiders who prayed on whites, Africans, and Indians alike. Others established communities dependent on farming and herding and sought peaceful relations and trade with their former masters and overseers.

European officialdom judged maroons to be in the words of one French historian, the "gangrene of colonial society." Their independence and prosperity refuted white claims of African and Indian inferiority, and their villages served as havens for any slave on the run. When well-trained colonial

armies were ordered to crush the outlaws, they met with stiff resistance. Maroon "self-respect" grows because of the fear whites have of them," a white Brazilian wrote to King Joao of Portugal in

1719. Maroon songs resonated with victorious pride:

*Black man rejoice  
White man won't come here  
And if he does,  
The Devil will take him off.*

At first most leaders were African born, but after 1700 leadership came fell increasingly to those of mixed heritage. Foreign soldiers had little stomach for warfare in the wilderness against Black Indians, so Europeans hired or conscripted Native Americans or Africans as soldiers. Conscripts were skilled frontier fighters, but their loyalty was dubious. In 1732 Spanish officials in Venezuela threw 150 Indians and Africans and 100 white soldiers against Juan Andrestoe, a Black Indian maroon leader. When Andrestoe's guerilla fighters surrounded the invaders, the soldiers of color on the Spanish side defected. The musket fire of Andrestoe's men finished the work, killing or wounding more than half the whites as they fled

enslaved throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, working together on cotton and tobacco plantations and in dank mines. Oppression created a special bond between the two groups. The first evidence of this dates from 1503. Viceroy Nicolas de Ovando, who oversaw Spain's holding on the Island of Hispanola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) said that his enslaved Africans had fled among the Indians and taught the m bad customs and could never be caught. .... Blacks and Native Americans gave early colonist reason to fear them. Beginning in the 1680s in the Dutch colony of Surinam, in South America, fugitive Indian and African slaves formed a community called Saramakas and fugitive bands like them became known as maroons. (The word derives from the Spanish term *cimarron*, which in the sixteenth century referred to domestic cattle that escaped into the hills on the Spanish Caribbean islands. Eventually the Anglicanized term maroon was used to described the African or Indian slaves who fled into the mountains, jungles and forests outside

## African American doctor developed modern blood banks technology

By GWYNITA LEGGINGTON

The month of February is the time for everyone to give special recognition to certain African Americans for their outstanding accomplishments. One familiar name in black history is Charles Richard Drew. His research on blood plasma and his willingness to establish blood banks led him to gain fame in his profession.

Drew was born on June 3, 1904, in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Amherst College in 1926 and received his M.D. from McGill University in 1933. Drew did not end his education there. He later went on to receive his Ph.D. in medical science (with an emphasis on blood preservation) in 1940.

Through research, Drew discovered the importance of early plasma transfusions in medical situations. At the time, plasma could be kept for longer periods of time than whole blood could. He concluded that plasma could be given to a person without waiting for blood-type studies.

Drew's work became popular in America and overseas. At the start of World War II, he worked on blood-transfusion programs for the French and British armies and he also organized many blood banks. Drew and his associates developed ways for shipping plasma overseas. In 1941, Drew became medical director of the Red Cross program. Three months later, he left the Red Cross and became a professor of surgery at Howard University and

chief surgeon at Freedmen's Hospital. In 1946, he became the hospital's medical director.

On April 1, 1950, Drew was injured in an automobile accident near Burlington, N.C. History says that Drew was denied treatment at a local hospital because he was black. He died within three hours after the accident. The man responsible for establishing the first blood and plasma banks could not receive any help from these banks. All of his research and discovery still did not account for anything because of his skin color. Many other African Americans have made contributions to society. Black history month allows us to give a special acknowledgment to Charles Drew and others.



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-Paul Wunder, WBAI RADIO

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FEBRUARY 21

# Sports

## PV men finish strong at Oklahoma Classic track&field indoors meet

BY ERIC-CHAMEL GAITHER

Dakari Jahi roped in the last of the Dodge City half milers at the Oklahoma Classic, Jan. 8, to lead the Prairie View A&M men's track team, winning a second consecutive 800-meter title, at this meet, with a time of 1 minute, 50.54 seconds, a provisional qualifying time for the NCAA indoors track and field meet.

Jahi, also the 1996 indoors SWAC 800-meter champion and NAIA second runner-up, was followed by fellow conference and NAIA All-American Shellie 'Sonny' Dick (1:55.89, seventh), who has qualified for the NAIA indoors national meet, to be held in Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 28 - March 1. Rounding out the field for the half milers was freshman James Williams, who finished seventeenth of 28 with a time of 1: 57.82.

In the distance medley relay [1200 meters: Dakari Jahi, 400 meters: Erick McLemore, 800 meters: Shellie Dick, 1600 meters: Conor Marsh], Prairie View finished third with an outstanding anchor from freshman Marsh.

Marsh, who finished seventh in the men's mile invite, won the first section of the men's 3000-meter run, clocking 9:02.62 seconds, while teammate John Dimis (9:40.76 seconds), also a freshman, finished sixth in that section. After dual sections against the clock had been run, the two had finished seventh and nineteenth, respectively. That competition had 24 entrants.

Hurdler Elridge 'Joe' Thibodeaux (8.44 seconds) sped to a breezy finish in the 60-meter high hurdles, placing fourth in the finals. After nipping one hurdle, freshman Derek Dennis (8.68 seconds) finished twelfth out of a field of 29 and barely missed qualifying for the finals.

Horizontal jumpers Tony Austin and Eric-Chamel Gaither finished second and fourth, respectively, in the triple jump. Austin hopped-stepped-jumped 48 feet 10.75 inches and Gaither 48 feet 2.75 inches; the triple jump had 17 entrants.

In the long jump, freshman Delvin Smith leaped 23 feet 1 inch to finish fourth out of 30 jumpers.

High jumper Ron Nelson finished third - out of a field of 20 jumpers - with a leap of 6 feet 9 inches.

Coming off a first-place team finish at the Cowboy and Cowgirl Invitational, held at the McNeese State indoors facility in Baton Rouge, La., two weeks ago, the Panthers are preparing for the SWAC indoors conference meet, which will be held at the Louisiana State University indoor facility in Baton Rouge, La., where teams in attendance will include - in addition to Prairie View - Alabama State, Alcorn, Grambling, Jackson State, Mississippi Valley, and Southern. Due to NCAA violations, Texas Southern will not be in attendance for the conference meet.

Following the conference meet, NAIA qualifiers will be traveling to Nebraska to challenge for a national title there.



Photo by Eric-Chamel Gaither  
After practice, PV Intermediate/high hurdler Joe Thibodeaux demonstrates an easier technique for getting around the last hurdle. Thibodeaux, who placed fourth in the 60-meter highs at the Oklahoma Classic has already qualified for NAIA Indoors national.

## PRAIRIE VIEW INDOOR TRACK SCHEDULE

Feb. 22-23  
Sat. & Sun. **SWAC Championships**  
Baton Rouge, La.

Feb. 28-March 1  
Fri. & Sat. **NAIA Championships**  
Lincoln, Neb.

March 7-8  
Fri. & Sat. **NCAA Championships**  
Indianapolis, Ind.

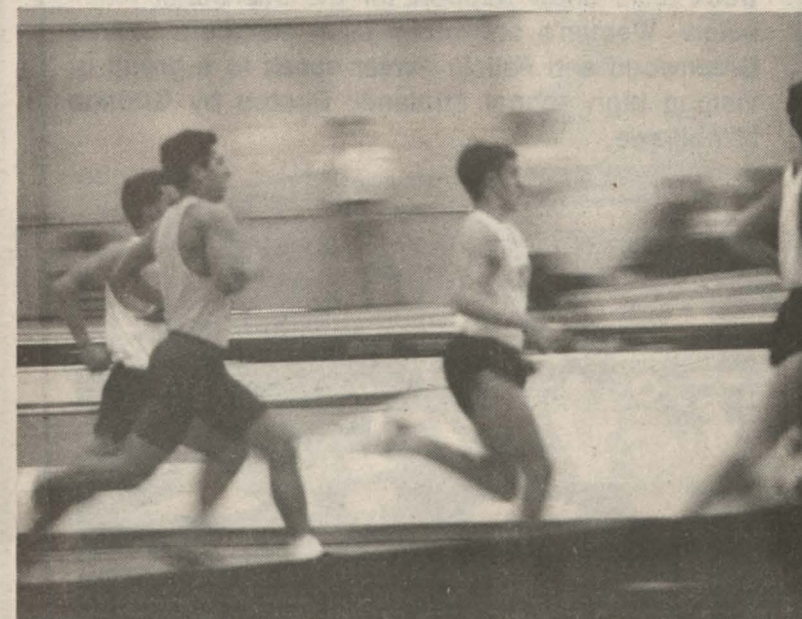


Photo by Eric-Chamel Gaither  
During the 3000-meter run, freshman John Dimis runs to position.

## Did you know?

Head men's track and field coach Hoover J. Wright was the assistant coach of the 1972 U.S. men's track and field Olympic team.

Former women's head coach Barbara J. Jacket was coach of the 1992 U.S. women's Olympic track and field team.

The Prairie View women's track and field team won the first-ever national collegiate title for women.

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# Sports

## Tigers steal win from PV in basketball

By MARK HERNDON

The Prairie View men's basketball team suffered a shocking defeat Saturday, Feb. 8, when it lost to Grambling State, bringing the Panthers' record to 8-14 overall and 5-5 in SWAC (Southwestern Athletic Conference) play.

Grambling State, whose overall record is 7-13, entered the arena determined to open the eyes of all who took for granted their conference standing and thought that because ranked last amongst conference teams, they would fall to the Panthers home winning streak.

The Tigers strutted into William J. Nicks Arena [The Baby Dome] with one thing on their conscience, which was redemption of this year's blunder of a season by defeating Prairie View, who had up to that point this season, held an undefeated record at home.

The game began with all of Prairie View's players in sync, their game strategy combined with the

confidence catalyzed by the recent victory over Huston-Tillotson formed a chemistry that initially implicated a certain win for the Panthers, who had the home advantage and support of hundreds of cheering fans.

It soon became apparent that a win from Grambling's unrelenting Tigers would come only through a struggle presented by a sudden plague of missed free-throws and poor pass selections, which resulted into turnovers, boosting Grambling's score late in the second half, allowing for the game to go into overtime.

In overtime, the Panthers' problems were exacerbated by the same type of play that had given them problems in regulation time. Grambling hit key free throw shots, while PV again failed to do so, which translated into an 81-80 loss for the Panthers.

On Monday, Feb. 10, Prairie View matched up against Mississippi Valley State, the No. 1 basketball squad in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Mississippi Valley State-

entering the Baby Dome with a 15-7 overall record and of 9-2 SWAC record- was intent on illustrating why they held the number one spot, while Prairie View had their hearts, minds, and spirits set on holding down the home fort and sending Valley back with a loss.

The Panthers were on a mission to prove the recent overtime loss to Grambling, the worst team in the conference, said nothing about the quality of PV's team.

Mississippi Valley began the game, jumping out to a quick 10-0 run, before Prairie View's head coach, Elwood Plummer, signaled a time out, noticing his team was off to a bad start.

The Panthers, now regrouped, stepped back onto the court with a revised plan and aggressive play that would carry on through the remainder of the first half. Point guard Sylvester Lilly ignited the flame, blazing through the lane against towering opponents. Lilly's intensity set the tempo for the Panthers and ultimately turned up the notch for the

remainder of the game. Prairie View led at halftime with a score of 40-37.

Mississippi Valley returned in the second half revitalized and came unto the court aggressively attacking the basket, snatching rebounds. PV returned the tenacity with consistent scoring and superb defense.

As the half concluded, PV lacked the defensive and offensive intensity and Mississippi Valley took full advantage of the situation, firing three-point shots, collecting even more points at the free throw line, which once again became the deciding factor of who would win the game.

With the final minutes of the game diminishing, Valley continued to cash in on the fundamental mistakes of Prairie View, finally winning 76-65.

### GOOD LUCK

*to the men's and women's track teams, which will be running, jumping and throwing for a SWAC championship title in Baton Rouge, La. this weekend. The purple is here, bring home the gold.*

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## PV golfer Hicks interns with PGA/Nike Tour

By ERIC-CHAMEL GAITHER

Prairie View A&M senior radio television major Michelle Hicks interned this past summer with the PGA/Nike golf tour, travelling city-to-city over a nine-week period.

Of 300 applicants, Hicks was selected one of the seventeen finalists for a PGA/Nike tour on-site promotions public relations position. Hicks' duties as the PGA Minority Intern, included various aspects of on-site operations, including scoring, working with volunteers, helping administer grassroots programs of PGA tour corporate partners, junior golfers and other basic sports marketing functions.

"The internship was very demanding, but so far it has been very rewarding as far as establishing points of contact for job opportunity," said Hicks, a U.S. Navy veteran, who is continuing a third year as captain of the Prairie View golf team. For the Panthers, Hicks was first-team All-SWAC '96.

Hicks is also the captain of the PV Honda Campus All-Star



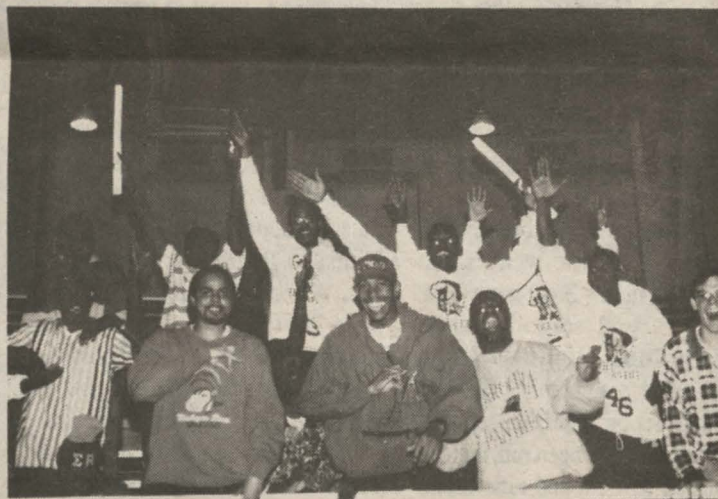
Michelle Hicks

Challenge. "It is the highlight of the school year, the best thing that has ever happened to me; it's also a four-day vacation trip to Orlando that I am looking forward to," said Hicks, who has been a member of Prairie View's All-Star assembly for three years and captain for two.

Travel through Ohio, Maryland, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, New York and Pennsylvania rounded out the summer schedule for Hicks who, in addition to visiting Ohio and Missouri two times, went on a combined two-week, paid vacation.

"I'd hope the instructors would get involved in pushing these positive programs to more students, and not just the students they like; everyone deserves a chance," concluded Hicks.

### Athletes do it all



above- At a recent PV game, members of the PV men's track team show support for the basketball team. below- Women's basketball team members Shante Greenwood and Felcia Tarver speak to a group of visiting high school students. Photos by Gitonga M'nbijewe.



# Sports

## Built of wish or work?

By ERIC-CHAMEL GAITHER Sports Editor

View - will lay foundation for generations to come.

Just when you're tired, can't breathe, and your muscles are cramped, say this four-letter word: work.

Don't be foolish in believing that natural talent will carry you to the pinnacle of success. If the best is what you work to be, then the best you will be - guaranteed. But the next time you take a shortcut, blame not the coach - blame yourself.

There is no genie absorbing wishes from the other side of the television as we declare that we would give anything to be the best.

Work involves no magicians. It's early in the season, and some of you are pursuing NFL and NBA dreams; more power to you.

Keep on working and you will be there.

Now, when you get there, will you forget Prairie View?

When the founders of Alta Vista College, now Prairie View A&M University, envisioned the future, they envisioned you. And everything you do - in the name of the spirit of Prairie

In our squabbling, let us not forget that we have walked too long, too far as one to now separate ourselves. The composition of the bricks on our campus structures required consistency, and their positioning accuracy, making them the strong structures they are.

We too build bricks; we too can build structures through athletics.

Evaluate your ranking in the order of things that have been and things that will be; where do you fit?

If you offer your bricks - basketball, track, golf, football, softball, volleyball, and baseball - together Prairie View athletes can stand united, protected by an indestructible structure.

But if we praise our unfinished houses, looking with envy at our fellow athletes, everyone is left standing in the rain.

By working to build a better you, you build a better Prairie View.

Besides, Panthers don't believe in genies; they put in the work.



Jamie Foxx

Tommy Davidson

Vivica A. Fox

Tamala Jones

Some guys will do anything for a little somethin', somethin'.

**BOOZY CALL**

AT THEATRES FEBRUARY 26

## Panther: The Print with Power Salutes

The Prairie View A&M University Panthers defeated the Jaguars of Southern University 97-95 to end their on-the-road losing streak. After two losses at home, the unrelenting Panthers gathered road momentum Mon., Feb. 17, in the next-to-last game of the SWAC season.



### WANTED

PRAIRIE VIEW FANS TO SHOW SUPPORT AT LAST HOME BASKETBALL GAME

This is it! We received not one letter at The Panther editors' office regarding the last ad soliciting support for the basketball team. Hope that means you'll be decked-out in purple and gold for the TSU game. If you can't wear it, wave it!

# Sports

## Panther football player named to All-SWAC team

Michael Patterson makes a name on the gridiron

BY ERIC-CHAMEL GAITHER

view selected Michal Patterson as player-of-the-week, after one interception, six tackles, three pass break-ups, two kick-off returns - totaling 40 yards - against Abilene Christian.

all-purpose yards - as a sophomore - Patterson garnered All-SWAC honors, second team, making him the first Panther football player in 11 years to do so.

Patterson had 47 tackles, placing him no.2 of the Panthers defensive backs; also, the receiver/db was no.6 in the SWAC for kick-off return average and no.2 in the conference for interceptions.

The 4.4-40-yard dasher says he has focused sight on breaking the SWAC record for interceptions in a season.

"Really, I want that - because it would mean that I'd have left my mark, not just at Prairie View, but on the SWAC too."

Patterson said that the support factor is evident, being that many of the alumni, parents, family, friends, and students come to support the team, although it hasn't mustered a win in seven years. "Some of the guys don't see that," said Patterson.

*"Those stats really weren't that good to me ... there was a lot of room for improvement."*

**-Michael Patterson**

In USA Today's college extra section, Sept. 18, 1996, Patterson graced the cover page, intercepting a goal-line pass against Div. III member Hardin-Simmons.

Roughly three weeks into the season, Patterson was ranked no.2 in the nation for interceptions.

First for the Panthers with 14 pass break-ups, six interceptions, and third on the team with

Somewhere between losses 50 and 60, a small ray of light, 5-9, 165 lbs., began to shine for the Panthers. Overlooked, during all the hoopla surrounding 'The Plague', Michael Patterson, left cornerback for the Panthers, was taking charge and posting some impressive stats.

As a freshman he led the team with 11 pass break-ups, was second for the Panthers with three interceptions, fourth in tackles with 54 and one blocked field goal, in addition to receiveing the Prairie View Outstanding Defensive Player award at the annual university athletic banquet.

"Those stats really weren't that good to me ... there was a lot of room for improvement," said Patterson, who played corner/receiver for the Manor Mustangs.

Patterson soon moved onto bigger things.

The Waller Tribune-Re-



Panther left corner back Michael Patterson, called "The Plague," made 47 tackles, placing him No. 2 among Panther defensive backs. He was also No. 6 in the SWAC for kick-off return average and No. 2 in the conference for interceptions, earning him a position on the All-SWAC team.

### The way we were...



The 1953 Panther football team and coaches on their way, by plane, to win the National Negro Football Championship against Florida A&M. Panther fans, we have won a game or two.

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History Month Celebrate Black

Celebrate Black History Month Celebrate Black

Black History Month Celebrate Black History

## Why Not Help Us Help You By ADVERTISING WITH THE PANTHER..



# Poetry

Da Pain

Da pain rooted deep in my foundation  
Through education, found truth contradicted the  
European translation  
Dad was pictures, postcards, and sporadic callin'  
We bonded, asked me about life and this is how I  
responded.  
Society has us in a choke hold  
Media makes this evident; we represent a dying  
species, an unwanted resident.  
Set myself free gaining consciousness  
Visibility is now clear for me, it seems to be  
Afrocentricity must rise amid this atrocity.  
So sisters stand by our side  
We'll surely make it together  
Never lose your pride  
Our clinched fist union can soothe the pain forever.  
--Steve James

## Really Black

SOME ARE "HIGH YELLOW", AND OTHERS "MIDNIGHT". SOME ARE TOO DARK, AND OTHERS, TOO LIGHT.	"HE ISN'T REAL. HIS FRONT IS SO FAKE! I'LL SHOW HIM THE DEAL FOR ALL OF OUR SAKES!"
"HER LIPS ARE TOO BIG! HER HAIR IS TOO STRAIGHT!" THIS IS THE BASIS FOR SUCH A GREAT HATE.	BUT WE CAN REPRESENT, ATTACKING OURSELVES, WHILE WE'RE LOSING THE WAR TO EVERYONE ELSE.
"THERE'S NO BEAT IN HIS WALK, AND NO SOUL IN HIS VOICE." THAT COUNTS AGAINST HIM, AS IF HE HAD A CHOICE	DIFFERENCES DON'T MATTER. WHAT'S HOLDING US BACK IS JUST OURSELVES, STEREOTYPICAL BLACKS.
BECAUSE "HE'S A SELL-OUT! HE AIN'T A BLACK MAN!" BECAUSE HE SHOWS EDUCATION, AND A LIFE WITH A PLAN.	LET'S DO SOMETHING POSITIVE TO HELP ONE ANOTHER. WE NEED TO REMEMBER WE'RE SISTERS AND BROTHERS.

--Avery Taylor

## Revolution

It started on one them big boats long time ago  
and them that enslaved us still don't know  
that it's been long to late to try to oppress  
us people with so much power-I must confess.  
It's funny how history proves true  
that someday we'd be feared by and need not be scareda you.  
Everyday another chile' is born makin' you take way them  
grants with much scorn.  
Lotsa us died on our way to freedom  
and lotsa us died for the right to be equal.

The tone has now been set by a historical moment;  
Creating unity and love among a million black men.  
Who have thought we could work together in peace  
Proving that as our kind grows, your kind decreases.  
When I say kind I do not mean race  
I mean as we are educated the more we can finally keep  
pace.

With the laws you create and throw about;  
Trying to rid us of education and pushing us out  
Of offices of Congress, Senate, and representation,  
But the more you push the more you give us this  
nation.

My peers may persecute me for my teachery  
But, I'm here to teach and give you a warning.  
That though the "Grand Man" exists in every office  
We will not go quietly and be treated as novice  
In the political game you play each election year  
Believing by electing "Grand Followers" you cause us  
fear.

To make things worse you laugh as we destroy  
Our own men and women and little girls and boys.  
But, on our side we are proud to befriend  
Your neighbors, and brethren and even your next of  
kin.

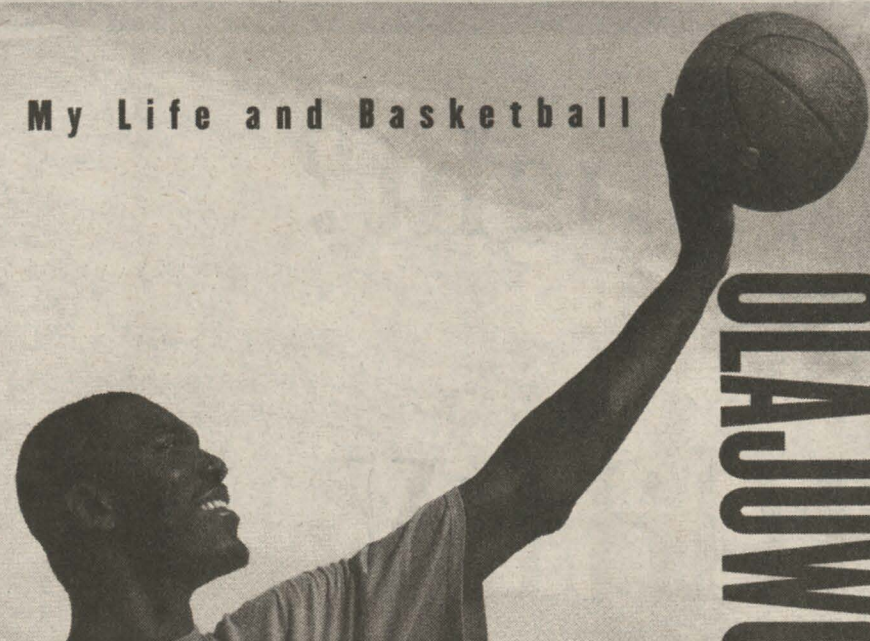
Now you fight for reform and states rights  
Fearing that radical days will become "black" nights.  
And while you vote for reform and cease offunds  
It's a waste of time for the revolution has long since  
begun.

--Griff '95

# Entertainment

## My Life and Basketball

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



OLAJUWON

Rockets' Hakeem Olajuwon gives readers an inside look at his life before *The Dream*.

## Hakeem Olajuwon proves dreams can come true

By MICHAEL POPE

Houston Rocket Hakeem Olajuwon is one of today's top post men in the NBA. Olajuwon's "dream shake" often sends oohs and ahhs out of spectators mouths. He does the same in his autobiography *Living the Dream* in collaboration with Peter Knobler. Peter Knobler has also collaborated on autobiographies of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Austin native Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson.

Unlike many basketball stories *Living the Dream* starts on the continent of Africa. *Living the Dream* resembles the movie *Coming to America*, except Hakeem is looking

for a athletic scholarship. Playing basketball was one of the last things His parents wanted him to do. When he was younger he walked stooped over to hide his tall 6'11 frame. His dream then consisted of a game called handball and at the age of 17 picks up the orange "god" (basketball). *Living the Dream* explains how Hakeem leaves his family in Nigeria at the age of 17 to. *Living the Dream* takes you places where you have never been such as Nigeria, The Final Four, University of Houston, and finally the NBA championship.

Olajuwon explains how one phone call and him, Michael Jordan, and Clyde Drexler would have ended

up on the same team. This basketball story even includes detailed information on playing and practicing against Moses Malone and many times Moses would give *The Dream* clothes to wear. As this journey continues Olajuwon allows the reader to visualize playing against Mitchell Jordan, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and many other NBA greats as if you were in his size sixteen Spaldings. Olajuwon sheds light on his first relationship which led to a girl, Abisola and his pilgrimage to Mecca.

*Living the Dream* lacks the creativity of Dennis Rodman's bestselling autobiography but is a good read.

## New group Dru Hill take R&B to the next level with their debut release

By ZHARMER HARDIMON

*R&B for the 21st Century* are the words printed on the credits of Dru Hill's debut release. That's a big statement to declare for a first time project, but this teenage quartet from Baltimore speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Mark "Sisqo" Andrews, 18, James "Woody" Green, 19, Tamir "Nokio" Ruffin, 17, and Larry "Jazz" Anthony, Jr, 18, make up Dru Hill, the singing group whose first release, "Tell Me", got enough radio airplay to tell me, you, yo' moma and your cousin, too. But Dru Hill has more to tell on their self-titled debut than just that one played out jingle.

At first glance, Dru Hill might come off as a generic Boyz II Men or Jodeci but these four brothers are dominating the airwaves causing music lovers to forget about all other male quartets. With production by Keith Sweat, Daryl Simmons and A. Haaq Islam, Dru Hill put forth an LP that will have R&B heads pressing the repeat button on the CD player.

Dru Hill is definitely a CD where the ballads shine. One of the best songs on the album, "Share My World", a Keith Sweat production, sings about love and togetherness with lyrics like "You're the one for me/ and I'm the one for you/ So come share my world".

Tracks 7-13, including "Never Make A Promise", "All



Woody, Sisqo, Nokio, Jazz

Alone" and a remake of the classic "Love's Train" represent true old school R&B added with the group's own unique flava. Dru Hill prove that they intend to be more than one-hitters.

If you really dig R&B definitely check out Dru Hill. If you're really not into R&B peep it anyway, you will be.

## 20 Questions

1. Is it true that the computer systems really never go down, but the workers just tell students "the computers are down" because they don't want to do any work?
2. Is there anyone who doesn't know the 4-digit code to get into University Village?
3. Why was Miss Black & Gold '96-97, Chrystal Bender, dancing through the entire '97-98 Miss Black & Gold Scholarship Pageant?
4. Speaking of pageants, why is there a surprise \$250.00 entry fee for the contestants of the 1997-98 Miss PVAMU Scholarship Pageant?
5. Why is it that Drew Hall lost their visitation privileges 30 minutes after they started?
6. Is Black History Month really about celebrating the history of our past?
7. Or is it just the month where HBO, Showtime and Cinemax show all our favorite movies?
8. Is February also the month designated for every organization on campus to sell something, whether it be candy, sing-o-grams, or drawz?
9. Why aren't all department heads advocates for their department?
10. Can Marriot get a clue and realize that when you have thousands of students who need to eat on the weekends there might need to be more than just two lines open in Alumni?
11. Why was the last issue of *The Panther* used as wallpaper at PXP's Apollo Night?
12. Doesn't it seem like DV students are on a secret mission to take over Compaq?
13. There are rumors that there are offices on campus where the secretaries don't have to buy supplies from their own meager salaries. Can this be true?
14. Why is it that sometimes there are more off-campus students eating in Alumni than on-campus?
15. Why does the president, who has an open door policy, have a security lock on the main door of his office?
16. Why is Hobart Taylor a maze?
17. Origins of Ebomics: Black or white?
18. Doesn't Alexander Hall remind you of the Taj Mahal in *Jungle Fever*?
19. Did Michael Jackson do it, or did he donate it?
20. What do you think?

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

# PHAT DIME

1. On & On.....Erykah Badu
2. In My Bed.....Dru Hill
3. For You.....Monica
4. Get It Together.....702
5. What's On Tonight.....Montell Jordan
6. Can't Nobody Hold Me Down.....Puff Daddy f/ Mase
7. Jazybelle.....Outkast
8. Big Daddy.....Heavy D
9. Tears.....Isley Bros.
10. Can We?.....SWV f/Missy

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# Viewpoints

## Who started the fight?

By K. CHAMAINE HENDERSON  
Editor In Chief

Before coming up to the office to put this issue of *The Panther* to bed, I stopped by my favorite campus eatery to have a meal. I reached the top of the stairs and saw that the line as usual for Sunday was very, very long. Only two lines were open to feed the 400 weekend dinner crowd. I sigh and wait my turn in line. Two very unhappy people are cutting and serving pizza. After half an hour, I am finally sitting down to eat my half-baked pizza. Suddenly I hear a crash and the grazing herd (of students) runs to one side of the cafeteria. The "cannibals" are restless again or could it be another Alumni fight? Just as suddenly as the herd moved to the right side of the cafeteria, they came frantically back to the left side of the cafeteria. The cannibals are really restless today. Campus police finally separated the people who were arguing and the herd settled back to grazing.

Now, you want to know what was it all about, right? I'll tell you. Brutha A at the end of the line asked Brutha B who was about to be served to pass him a plate of food. Brutha B told Brutha A to wait his own turn. Brutha A gets mad at Brutha B (and his friends who are in line with him) and proceeds to talk a bunch of noise. Brutha B (and his friends) are offended by the noise that Brutha A was talking so they began to talk some noise too. The rest is in the police report.

Somebody said that Brutha A was wrong and should have waited his turn. Somebody said that "punk a\*s" Brutha B should have let him have the food. Somebody else said that the sista serving the food was wrong because she should have just served Brutha A. (Wha?!). And somebody else said that it was Marriott's fault for not having enough food to serve everybody quickly.

Brutha A? Maybe so. Patience is a virtue. I waited in line and I was late for an appointment.

Brutha B? Maybe so. Sometimes it takes a better man to keep his mouth shut to avoid a fight instead of talking his way into one.

The Sista? Wha?!

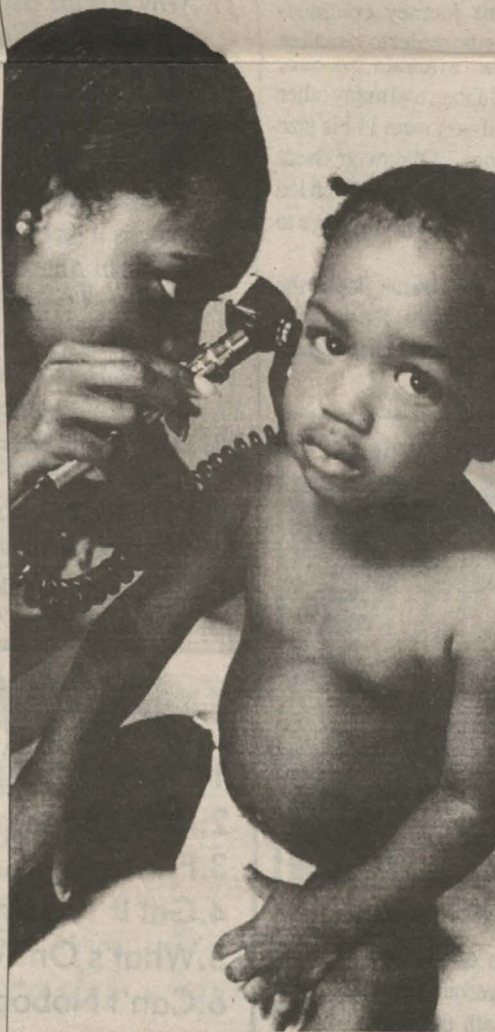
Marriott? Maybe so. During the week about 2,600 people eat upstairs in Alumni. They have about seventy part-time and full-time workers to serve them four different meals. On the weekend about 850 people eat in Alumni. They have about 35 part-time workers to serve them two different meals.

Now, who really started the fight?

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