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The

Panther

April 10, 1998
Vol. 75, No. 8

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

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Chrystal Bender, Miss Prairie View 1997-98 congratulates the newly crowned Miss Prairie View 1998-99, Lum-Awah Atang

photo by Gitonga M'Mbijewe

New Miss Prairie View takes reign

By Jo-Carolyn Goode
Panther Staff

With the stars aglow and the lights dimmed, the stage was set for the 29th Miss Prairie View A&M University Pageant held Friday, April 3, in the William "Billy" J. Nicks fieldhouse.

Under this year's theme "A New Star Is Born," reigning Miss Prairie View, Chrystal Bender, along with the contestants performed a delightful opening number fitting for only the biggest, brightest stars.

The 1998-99 contestants Lum-Awah Atang, Tanisha LaRu Cosby, LaToya Michelle Harris, Creslyn Renee' Davis, Nairobi Dawn Anderson, and Tanya Elizabeth Michelle Williams com-

peted in swimsuit, talent, evening gown, question and answer, as well as a private interview.

During the competition the smoke was pretty thick, but Lum-Awah Atang's powerful answer to the question "Why do African-Americans have so many names? If you had to choose one which would it be and why?" helped clear it. Lum-Awah Atang was later crowned the 29th Miss PVAMU.

Atang's royal court includes first runner-up Williams and second runner-up Davis. All three ladies will receive scholarships as well as other prizes.

See Pageant on page 7

Election debate set the stage for interesting voting outcomes

By Carlos Hopkins
Panther staff

An opening prayer was just what this year's Student Government Association (SGA) elections for the 1998-99 school year needed as the debate heated up with an assortment of questions and comments.

The SGA presidential candidates, junior Kieron Loregnard, senior Alzo Slade Jr., and junior SaKinna Thomas took their seats on stage of the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Ballroom in hopes of making an impact on the student body.

Loregnard was the first to step to the podium to speak of what he hoped and promised to carryout if he was elected SGA president for the 98-99 school year.

See Debate on page 4

Time to vote



photo by Gitonga M'Mbijewe

Several Prairie View A&M students go to the polls to cast their ballots for the 1998-99 Student Government Association elections

By Carlos Hopkins
Panther staff

Prairie View A&M University's (PVAMU) student body picked new Student Government Association (SGA) leaders for the 1998-99 school year.

With 78% of the votes, Alzo Slade Jr. won for SGA president. Clifford Meeks won as vice president.

Other positions within the SGA were closely divided among candidates if the candidate had an opponent at all.

Other elected officers were: Alene Riley for vice president of academic affairs, Natasha Robinson for executive secretary, Michael Windle for comptroller, Eric Blaylock, Arletta Saafir, and Desmond Thomas, all placed for Senators.

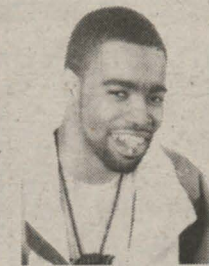
"Good issues opened up eyes and enlightened some people during this election," said former SGA President David Walden.

Congratulations to all of
the new Student Govern-
ment Association officers,
1998-99

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Being "human becomings" undermines becoming human beings



Alzo Slade Panther Staff

Who are you? Are you living? If you are living, then in what sense? To be alive is to be in existence to a certain degree. To live means to maintain oneself.

To what degree are you maintaining yourself? If you are not properly maintaining yourself on the degree of life you are on now, then you are not prepared to elevate to the next.

What steps are you taking in order to begin or to continue to better yourself as a person?

Bettering yourself as a person means to search for knowledge of self. This is knowledge that can not be taken from you. The more you know, the more you realize how much you don't know.

There have been several institutions devised to assist us in gaining knowledge of self.

The first and most popular is religion. The prefix

"re" means to go back. "Lig" means to join. So religion was designed to return us to the essence of the supreme being that is within us.

Even though there are many different religions, they are similar in many ways.

Another institution that comes to mind is that of the Masonic family. This institution is one based on gaining knowledge. There are many questions surrounding this institution, considering the masses perceive the Masonic family as being under the cloak of secrecy.

Knowledge is there for those who seek it. From the Masonic family stems the first Greek-lettered organization, Sigma Pi Phi, also known as the Boule'.

Following the Boule' came the eight Greek organizations that we are familiar with. These institutions have standards to live by that are designed to make you a better person.

You may often hear people say, "You should live up to the standards of a Kappa, Alpha, AKA, or Delta."

See Living on page 5

Definitions of black people extend far beyond the infamous "N" word

By Santee's Bowers Panther Staff

Growing up over the years, I have encountered numerous definitions of what a nigga should mean.

At times, the word denotes a working dog that existed during slavery, others indicate that its definition refers to ignorant people, and some go as far to say that it is a way to reference Black males when speaking.

Now living in 1998, no longer slavery days, I realize the masters' working dog no longer exist. Sharing classes with students everyday and knowing that they also passed state required college entrance exams, I comprehend that they

are not completely ignorant. As far as Black males are concerned, there are a large number of them that do not deserve the bad reputation that has been placed upon them by the word.

With some programs such as Developing Effective Leadership and World Rulers Peace Summit, 'black power' which encourages black people to come together in their communities, and even the mission and purpose statement that strives to maintain excellent instruction and strong curriculum, I still don't know why some want to act like ignorant people or nigga's anyway.

See Black on page 15



THE NEW DOCTOR/PATIENT RELATIONSHIP



Newspaper Staff

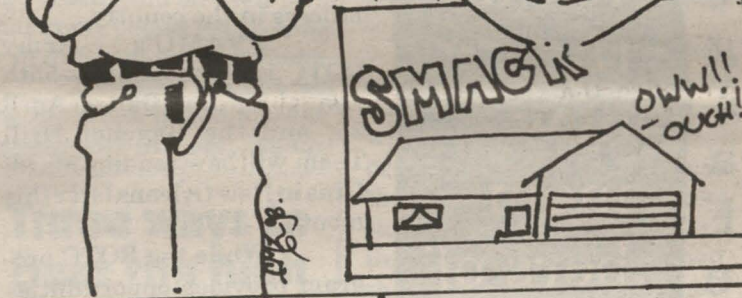
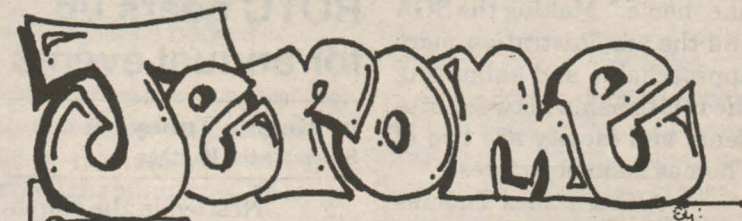
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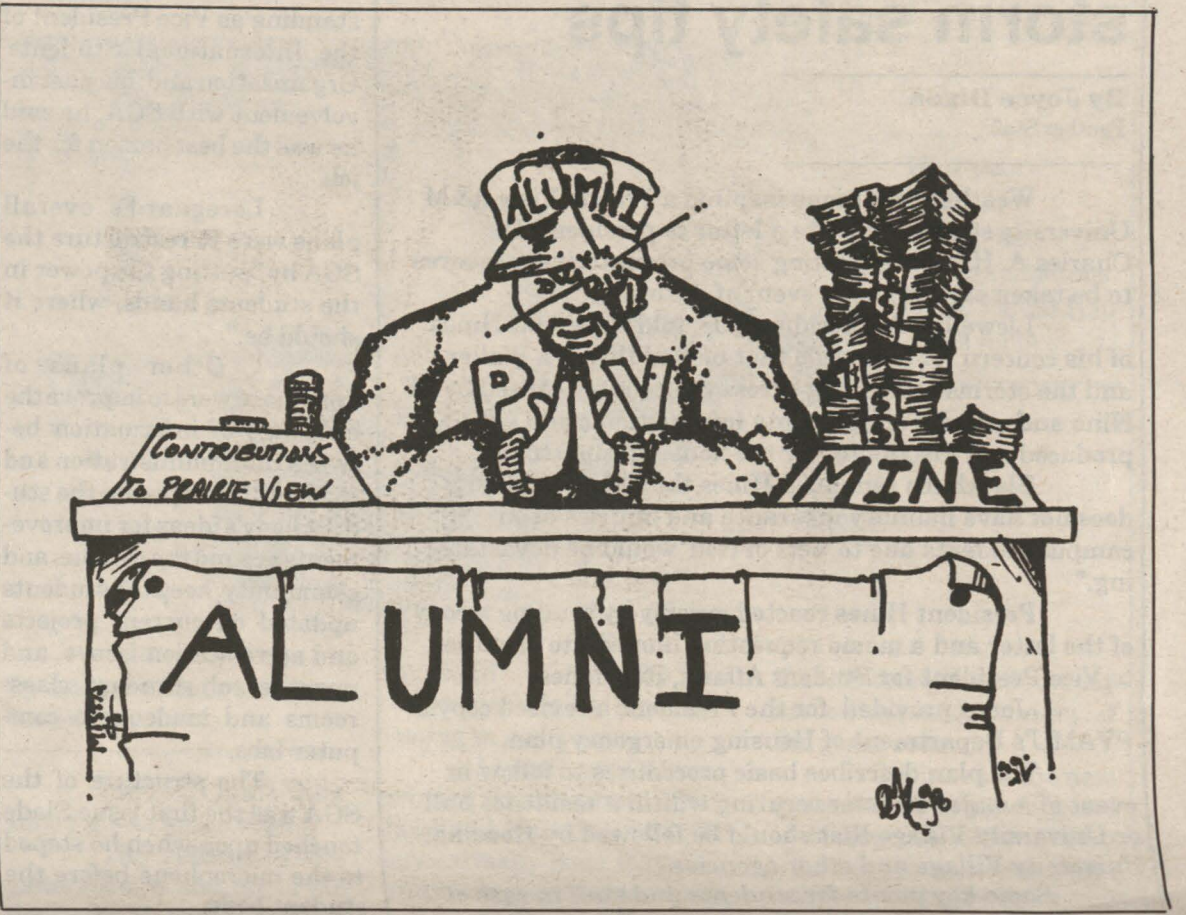
Editorial Policy

The Panther is a publication supported through advertising and student activities fees. Views expressed within the publication are not necessarily those shared by Prairie View A&M University or the Texas A&M University Board of Regents.



Happy Easter from the Panther staff

Prairie View alumni give what they can



Students wonder if alumni give back to their university.

Sure, some claim to be giving their money or would give back but don't trust unfamiliar people with their money.

Some of the PV "faithful" give whatever they can to help improve the university.

For the fiscal year '98, from Sept. '97 to Jan. '98, alumni individuals donated \$29,575, which was a decrease from 1997 when alumni donated \$31,656.

CORRECTION:

In the article titled "Phone registration: Give it a rest" in the last issue of The Panther, a significant portion of Darryl Kemp's letter was inadvertently omitted.

Kemp actually stated the following:

"I read the article "Phone registration 'off the hook'" in the last Panther newspaper. The article states, according to Mr. Ron Cornelius, that computer

Alumni organizations donated \$33,366 in 1998 which is a jump from \$19,700 from the previous year.

During the 1998 fiscal year, the Office of the President received \$170,000.

The College of Arts and Sciences received \$11,546 from alumni. The College of Engineering and Architecture had the greatest amount donated at \$267,130, and the Panther Athletic Department received \$35,185.

"Alumni don't give any donations unless asked," said

Sue Sampleton, Research and Records Coordinator.

"They really want to know what their money is used for. This year is going great, many alumni are giving more to the university than in previous years."

If anyone has any questions about alumni giving back, check by the office of Institutional Development. They will be glad to share the information.

By John Allen

registration did not appear on our campus until April 1993. I had to call Mr. Ron Cornelius to confirm this statement because I have personally been involved with registrations on this campus for the past 22 years. I will not get into what he says transpired between his interview and the printing of the article, and it is not important how long Prairie View A&M University has utilized computers in the process of registration AND I will not

delude myself into thinking that our registration process is without problems, BUT all of us need to understand, telephone registration is not (really) an option for us (again, my opinion)."

Also, Kemp wrote that Prairie View has a problem with classes starting to close after the second day of pre-registration as opposed to the statement printed in The Panther.

We apologize for any inconvenience our error may have caused.

Submission Policy for Letters to the Editor

Anyone who reads The Panther can submit a letter to the editor at P. O. Box 2876, Prairie View, TX 77446 or in the Memorial Student Center, room 114. All submissions are subject to editing and must include the author's name and telephone number.

President moves on storm safety tips

By Joyce Dixon
Panther Staff

Weather conditions inspired a Prairie View A&M University student to write a letter to president, Dr. Charles A. Hines, requesting some preventative measures to be taken on campus in event of a storm.

Llewellyn A. Blackburn, Jr. told President Hines of his concern for a tornado that passed through Waller and the storms continuing across the country caused by El Nino and asked if storm safety information could be produced and distributed by the housing department.

Blackburn reminded Hines that "the University does not have liability insurance and injuries of on-campus students due to 'acts of God' would be devastating."

President Hines reacted quickly by sending a copy of the letter and a memo requesting immediate attention to Vice President for Student Affairs, Ron Jones.

Jones provided for the President a revised copy of PVAMU's Department of Housing emergency plan.

The plan describes basic procedures to follow in event of a major disaster occurring within a residence hall or University Village that should be followed by Housing, University Village and other agencies.

Some key points for students and staff in case of an emergency are to avoid panic, report all emergencies and report anything deemed worthy to authorities.

There are some preparatory measures that can be taken prior to the announcement of an emergency situation such as making sure fire extinguishers are in working condition and located in a convenient place and ensuring first aid kits are complete and ready to use.

SEVERE WEATHER AND TORNADO SAFETY MEASURES

1. GO TO BASEMENT OR LOWEST FLOOR OF BUILDING (If your building, residence hall, or apartment has a pre-designated area, go to that area).
2. STAND CLEAR OF WINDOWS, EXTERIOR WALLS, AND DOORS
3. MOVE TO INTERIOR HALLWAYS AND SMALL INTERIOR ROOMS (i.e., bathrooms, closets, etc.)
4. AVOID STANDING NEAR EXTERIOR WALLS AND AREAS WHICH MAY BE GLASS ENCLOSED
5. GET UNDER SOMETHING STURDY IF POSSIBLE (i.e., sturdy tables, desks, etc.)
6. CALL 9 - 911 IF EMERGENCY HELP IS NEEDED

Debate from page 1

With his current standing as Vice President of the International Students' Organization and his past involvement with SGA, he said he was the best person for the job.

Loregnard's overall plans were to restructure the SGA by "putting the power in the students hands, where it should be."

Other plans of Loregnard were to improve the exchange of information between the administration and students, incorporate the student body's ideas for improvements around the campus and community, keep the students updated on current projects and accreditation issues, and upgrade sub-standard classrooms and inadequate computer labs.

The structure of the SGA was the first issue Slade touched upon when he stepped to the microphone before the student body.

Slade said he wanted to "formulate SGA as a well-oiled machine" by establishing SGA in a formal fashion so that the students' concerns will be heard.

The lack of knowledge about the power each student has on this campus was one of Slade's major issues.

He felt a breakdown of the SGA's chain of command to the students is necessary.

Slade explained that the chain of command in the SGA is a step to retrieve some of the power that the students did not know they have.

Prairie View's graduation rate, alumni knowledge about the whereabouts of their money, and improving student and faculty relations are other concerns that Slade promised to improve upon if elected the SGA president.

With her winning smile of confidence, Thomas, the only female candidate for the SGA president, took her place at the podium.

Sophomore class president last year and currently holding the comptroller position in this school year's SGA was a strong reference for Thomas' background.

Thomas said her main goal as president of the SGA would be to make Prairie View

like "home." Making the SGA and the administration more approachable and enhancing the relationship between students and faculty are two of Thomas' main objectives.

Other issues Thomas touched upon were campus safety, financial aid, jobs and internships, voting registration for the city of Prairie View and wheelchair access for the Memorial Student Center's (MSC) third and fourth floors.

Without an opponent, current SGA vice president incumbent Clifford Meeks spoke briefly about his background in his bid to be re-elected.

Brief statements were also given by candidates who were running for other positions within the SGA.

ROTC gears up for annual events

by Keisha Toney
Special to the Panther

Nestled in the Northeast corner of campus, the Army ROTC building has the tendency to appear dreary and uninteresting. However, Prairie View A&M University's (PVAMU) Panther Battalion has been anything but that.

This month, Prairie View's campus was visited by Colonels Mackey and Philbrick, the Brigade and Region Commanders, respectively.

Every year, the Army ROTC program recognizes its outstanding cadets in a joint awards ceremony with the Navy ROTC. This year's award ceremony is on April 23.

During the ceremony, cadets are congratulated by professors of Military Science, and some of the top-ranking officers in the country.

PVAMU's Army ROTC is also hosting its 55th annual Military Ball on April 25, and the Bayonet Drill Team will be attending Mardi Gras in New Orleans later this month.

While the ROTC program provides opportunities for fun, its main focus is on training. Each semester, cadets participate in field training exercises that prepare cadets for Basic and Advanced Camps.

These two camps, held in Fort Knox, Ky. and Fort Lewis, Wash., are paid summer internships where the focus is on leadership training.

Like every department on campus, the Army ROTC program has room for growth. If interested in the program or scholarship opportunities, call Major Pearson at 857-4612.

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to all the new members of the... Greek and non-Greek organizations

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Living from page 2

If you live up to the standards of a Black Man and Black Woman, you will far exceed the standards of any of these organizations.

These organizations should be as a long barrel shotgun. The bullet is guided along in the right direction so when it leaves the barrel, it continues along the right path.

These organizations should serve as a tool to guide individuals in the right direction to knowledge of self.

It seems as though these organizations are like sawed off shotguns in that the bullet scatters after it is shot.

People get in these organizations and forget about their purpose. They think they have to belong to something in order to be something. That is backwards.

You should have a sense of self before you belong to any organization. Many people who search for knowledge of self, find on their own what many people are looking for in different organizations.

There are individuals who are weak in some areas, find support through organi-

Three ways to beat the high cost of college.

1. The Montgomery GI Bill
2. Student loan repayment
3. Part-time income

The Army Reserve Alternate Training Program is a smart way to pay for college.

First, if you qualify, the Montgomery GI Bill can provide you with up to \$7,124 for current college expenses or approved vo/tech training.

Second, if you have—or obtain—a qualified student loan not in default, you may get it paid off at the rate of 15% per year or \$500, whichever is greater, up to a maximum of \$10,000. Selected military skills can double that maximum.

Third, you can earn part-time money in college, and here's how it works: One summer you take Basic Training, and the next summer you receive skill training at an Army school. You'll earn over \$1,500 for Basic and even more for skill training. Then you'll attend monthly meetings at an Army Reserve unit near your college, usually one weekend a month plus two weeks a year. You'll be paid over \$107 a weekend to start. It's worth thinking about. Give us a call:

BE ALL YOU CAN BE!
ARMY RESERVE

zations and join them for recreation and entertainment.

These organizations were created in the name of unity, but it seems as though there is an unwritten clause that states "unity within our organization only."

We are no different from each other. Some people think they are better than others because they display the letters of someone else's culture on their chest. Some people call themselves "Greek" and place their organization higher than those who call themselves "non-Greek."

The prefix non indicates lack of possession, meaning the "Greeks" possess something that the "non-Greeks" do not.

All of this is based on a culture that was ours in the first place. It was stolen and now we give credit to the thieves.

Some people, whether they be "Greek" or "non-Greek" think they are better than those who do not belong to any organization.

Most people say they join for the brotherhood and sisterhood. If this is the case, why do some of us neglect other brothers and sisters because they don't know the secret shake or wear what we wear? Brotherhood and sisterhood should not have to be gained through a handshake or some letters.

A friend will be there before and after. There are bigger challenges ahead of us and until we can handle this one of unity, those challenges waiting will just get larger.

"The desire to be has become the desire to belong."

If there were no letters, chants, colors, signs, and stepping, how many people do you think would be in these organizations? Before we can keep it real, we need to get real.

Many people will join these organizations and place them above life itself.

Knowledge of self is a treasure you are able to call your own and no one can take it from you.

You may look for assistance in these entities you just read about, but the only place you are going to find it is within.

We then will be human beings instead of human becomings.

Farrell hall houses new campus game room



New pool tables are among the various additions to the Farrell Hall game room

Photo by Charles Collins

By LaToya Moore
Panther staff

Farrell Hall has added a new game room.

The setting of the game room is similar to the den at the Memorial Student Center (MSC).

In fact, Silas T. Collins, director of the student center operations said the new game room is three times larger than the den at the MSC.

The reason for the new game room, Collins said, is that students needed more space, plus the den became

too small to hold the increasing number of students coming in everyday.

According to Collins, two new arcade games-NBA Jams and Mortal Combat II- have already been installed and more games are coming.

Collins also said a new gum ball machine will be added but instead of gum it will hold ping pong balls so students can play on the two new ping pong tables.

On April 2, students were allowed to enter the new game room and could choose between playing on six pool tables, one air hockey table, and watching one of

the two television sets that are on opposite corners of the game room.

Collins said the new game room will have a grand opening with President Charles Hines, along with a ribbon cutting ceremony, but the date for this occasion is unofficial because, according to the fire marshal, glass in a game room office is a safety hazard and needs to be covered with a fire rated material.

"The new game room is to provide a better life for the students at Prairie View A&M University," said Collins.

Peace Corps offers life challenge, overseas adventure

Prairie View student expects to experience life abroad

By Dr. Kimetris Baltrip
Special to the Panther

"The toughest job (he'll) ever love" awaits a Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) student who expressed willingness to accept a "small risk."

PVAMU senior Lawrence Warren accepted the challenge implied by the preceding statement which, according to Dr. Morris Baker of the Peace Corps, is an absolute truth.

An architecture major who will be graduating in May, Warren decided to journey to Africa or the Asian Pacific as a Peace Corps volunteer next Fall.

"It's an opportunity of a lifetime. . . I always tell

people I want a life full of adventure," Warren stated.

Warren said his consideration about whether to join the Peace Corps was propelled "from 0 to 150 miles per hour" after a delegation of Peace Corps employees and former volunteers visited PVAMU.

Baker, who coordinates and supervises recruitment efforts for the Peace Corps in the southwestern United States, gave an informational speech to several classes of students during a recent two-day recruitment program on campus.

"To those people in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bond of massive misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves. . .," Baker touted, as he remem-

bered this historical profession from former President John F. Kennedy's 1961 inauguration speech.

Baker said this famous Kennedy quote mirrors the mission of the Peace Corps which is to promote world peace and friendship.

PVAMU was the first university to host Baker and other members of the Peace Corps as part of the program's "10,000 by 2000 Millennium Initiative" which, in part, aims to increase the number of African American Peace Corps volunteers.

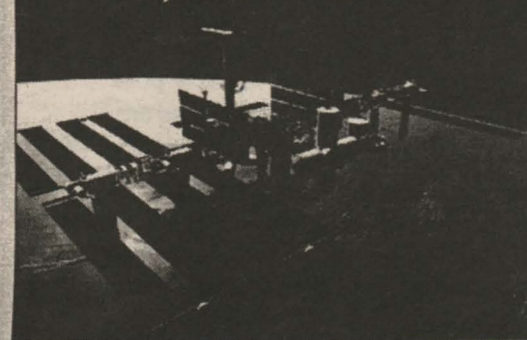
According to Baker, of the 6,500 Peace Corps volunteers in over 80 countries throughout the world, 181 of them are African Americans.

See **Peace** on page 7

REGIONAL NEWS

Keeping an eye on Texas

"Hello, Houston..."

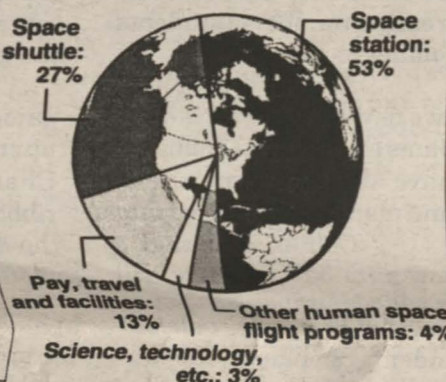


Artist's concept of the International Space Station.

In preparation for voyages to the moon and Mars, crew members spent 90 days in a sealed chamber at Houston's Johnson Space Center in late 1997. Development and assembly of the International Space Station begins this summer at a cost of about \$30 billion. Consisting of Russian- and American-made segments, the space station will be capable of housing its first crew in early 1999.

Space center programs

The Johnson Space Center in Houston, in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), is developing the International Space Station. More than half of the Space Center's \$3.5 billion budget went to the space station program in fiscal 1997.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Growth of Houston space center benefits Texas

John Sharp
State comptroller

"Houston was the first word spoken on the moon; and Houston and its Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) have played a leading role in the drama of space exploration throughout the history of the U.S. manned spaceflight program," State Comptroller John Sharp recalled.

Sharp made this remark at the Johnson Space Center after releasing a report on the importance of the space program to the Houston economy, to Texas schools and universities, and everyone who uses products developed for the space program.

"Before the arrival of JSC, Houston was not well known internationally. The space program helped bring worldwide attention and acclaim to the city; and

Houston and the rest of the state continue to reap the rewards of having JSC as a neighbor," Sharp said.

"At the university level in 1997, NASA spent

"At the university level in 1997, NASA spent almost \$40 million in Texas..."

almost \$40 million in Texas on a variety of research and educational programs, including \$4.5 million at the University of Houston, \$3.9 million at Rice University, \$5.1 million at Prairie View A&M, and close to \$1 million each at UH-Clear Lake, UT Health Science Center in Houston, and Texas Southern University."

Sharp stressed the necessity of promoting growth of JSC's presence in Texas for the benefit of the entire state.

Regional Briefs

Denton, TX

Every April over 50,000 people travel to Denton to experience the Denton Arts and Jazz Festival.

This year it will

Denton jazz and arts festival

feature the cool sounds and diverse entertainment of Roy Orbison, Deep Blue Something, The 'Ocklock' Lab Band, Pat Boone, Brave Combo, Pen Hands, Tripping Daisy and many other famous Jazz musicians.

The festival is a free

3 day event beginning Friday April 24-through Sunday April 26.

There will be games, activities, food, arts and craft booths, and children's art activities. For more information call (940) 565-0931

Rosa Parks and Mary Allen meet in "Buses"

Houston, TX

The Ensemble Theater presents "Buses," which depicts a magical meeting between Rosa Parks and Mary Ellen

Pleasant.

Both women are known as the mother of civil rights, and the play will present a startling view of the African American struggle through their

personalities.

The play is running through April 26. Tickets are \$10 to \$18. For tickets reservations and group information call (713) 520-0055

2nd annual diversity career day

Houston, TX

The second annual Diversity Career Day, sponsored by Ad 2 Houston and the University of Houston (UH) Communication Alumni Organization, will be held on Friday, April 24 in the Great Hall of the UH Athletics/Alumni Building.

This event unites

students of diverse backgrounds to educate them about a career in advertising.

Ad 2 Houston is an advertising organization comprised of young communications professionals and students.

The organization will be hosting ad agencies, newspapers, television and radio stations, billboard

companies, and graphic studios to participate in recruiting and/or educating the students about careers in advertising/communications.

Companies will have the opportunity to set up a display table, in addition to the service of refreshments.

For more information, contact Loida Casares at (713) 743-5345.

SUPPORT

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Seeking to Raise \$1.5 Million by August 31, 1998

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Contact: Mrs. Carolyn Bradley - Oliver
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CAMPUS NEWS

Space center signs agreement with computer science



photo by Tom Godwin

By Patrina Bostic
Managing Editor

NASA Johnson Space Center has sought a cooperative agreement with Prairie View A&M University's (PVAMU) computer science department naming the university as its prime contractor for developing computer software designed for the International Space Station and Space Shuttle Program due to launch its first module into orbit this summer.

The undertaking is a collaboration between subcontractors including Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Smith Research Company,

North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, NC, and GHG Corporation, a NASA personnel training facility.

"It's exciting to see PVAMU take the lead," said J. D. Oliver, Head of the Computer Science Department and Principal Investigator of the project, who worked at NASA for 13 years before resigning to join PVAMU.

As a result of NASA anticipating a long-term need for software skills to develop and maintain the International Space Station, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority institutions were provided an opportunity to fill the International Space Station's void.

Pageant from page 1

Other awards given were top ad seller which was presented to Anderson.

Award for Miss congeniality and best evening gown went to Williams. Best swimsuit and private interview went to Atang.

There was a tie for best talent between Atang and Davis who performed a dramatic interpretation piece entitled "Ain't I A Woman" by Sojourner Truth and a piano medley respectively.

PVAMU and NASA's partnership became official in October 1997 with a dual goal to produce HBCU and other minority institution graduates equipped to excel in the aerospace industry by developing a software engineering curriculum on campus, a work internship program, aerospace software engineering support capabilities, and student interest programs. The program is funded under a grant awarded by NASA.

"A major reason PVAMU was chosen is its accredited academic programs in computer science and engineering, and the management

See NASA on page 15

Peace from page 5

Specifically, Baker said the Peace Corps offers free roundtrip travel to one's country of service, full medical and dental care, a living allowance, and a \$5,400 "readjustment allowance" upon completion of the program.

Baker added that students can get up to 50 percent of their Perkins loans canceled and a two year, interest free deferment of their Stafford loans after successfully completing the Peace Corps.

"(The Peace Corps) added years to my life," said Baker who started as a 27-year-old volunteer in 1966, serving in the Phillipines and several African countries.

Of his forthcoming travel plans, Warren stressed, "I'm really excited and ready to go."

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Slamming, cramming complaints grow among college students

January 1998
Month-over-Month
Comparison of
Slamming, Cramming
Complaints

- Texas**
38,600
- Missouri**
5,900
- Oklahoma**
3,400
- Arkansas**
3,300
- Kansas**
2,500

In 1997, Southwestern Bell interceded on behalf of the following number of customers in Texas and its five-state service area:

- 170,000 in central, west and south Texas (including San Antonio, Austin and Waco)
- 110,000 in Dallas/Fort Worth
- 105,000 in Houston
- 38,000 in Arkansas
- 28,000 in Kansas
- 58,500 in Missouri
- 50,000 in Oklahoma

College students make prime targets for unlawful telecommunications practices

State of Texas
Special to the Panther

There may be a surprise, or two waiting for students the next time they open their phone bills. Slamming,

Slamming is the unauthorized change of a customer's telecommunications provider, and cramming, the practice of billing customers for products and services they didn't order, are on the rise on college campuses.

These unlawful practices continue to plague college students because of their busy lifestyles, multiple roommates and tendency to gloss over utility bills.

In addition, college students are attractive targets for slammers because they are high users of long-distance services.

During 1997, Southwestern Bell resolved about 558,000 long-distance slamming disputes in the company's traditional five-state service area.

A 50 percent increase over the prior year. What's more, statistics from January show the rise in slamming complaints is continuing: 53,800 Southwestern Bell customers were slammed versus 22,600 for the same month a year ago.

"It's important for college students to closely read their telephone bills and educate themselves on slamming and cramming," said Lynette DeBose, Southwestern Bell's college marketing manager. "Southwestern Bell cares about its customers and will continue to intervene on their behalf to get fraudulent situations resolved."

Of Southwestern Bell's traditional five-state area, Texas has been the hardest hit. Of the nearly 558,000 long-distance slamming complaints that Southwestern Bell handled in its five-state region in 1997, close to 70 percent were from Texas. In the Dallas/Ft. Worth area,

The Southwestern Bell customer service representatives interceded on behalf of nearly 110,000 customers; in the Houston area.

Almost 105,000; and in the central, west and south Texas area (including San Antonio, south and west Texas, Austin and Waco), more than 170,000 complaints in 1997.

Last year, Southwestern Bell interceded on behalf of nearly 38,000 customers in Arkansas, more than 28,000 in Kansas, nearly 58,500 in Missouri, and more than 50,000 in Oklahoma.

According to a recently completed Southwestern Bell survey of customers in its five-state service area, more than half of all telephone customers fear they will be slammed, and almost half either have been slammed or know someone who has.

In addition, nearly all customers want solutions to the problem so their choice of telecommunications provider is protected from being changed without their permission.

To avoid unlawful practices, Southwestern Bell recommends that college students carefully review their monthly bills.

The best advice would be to question unusual or unexplained charges, read forms or contest entries to make sure they are not authorizing changes to their service and be cautious when speaking with telemarketers.

"Unfortunately, without continued consumer education and strengthened rules by state and national lawmakers, slamming and cramming will continue to grow as competition in telecommunications increases," DeBose added.

For a free "Hang Up on Slamming" brochure, visit <http://www.swbell.com> or call Southwestern Bell at 1-800-814-8448. Because company research indicates that ethnic audiences and minorities are particularly vulnerable to long-distance slamming,

Southwestern Bell is offering its consumer educational materials in Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese.

Panther Classified Ads

Miscellaneous

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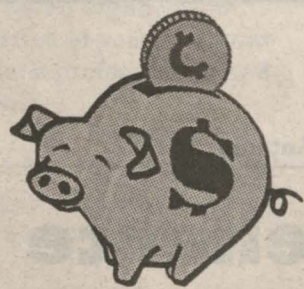
Older issues of *The Pantherland* yearbook are available for a nominal fee. Come by the Student Publications Office, 114A MSC, write to P.O. Box 2876, Prairie View, TX 77446 or call (409) 857-2132 or 857-4107.

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Author discusses new issues facing professional women

New York, NY

On Sunday, March 29, 1998, author Be Be Moore Campbell autographed her new book entitled "*Singing In The Comeback Choir*" at the Shrine Bookstore and Cultural Center of Houston.

The book tells the story of a successful, professional woman and the grandmother who sacrificed everything to raise her. This book also talks about the vibrant yet deteriorated Philadelphia neighborhood that remains a vital part of both their lives.

Campbell also talks about the affect and power of music, friendships, and love and how it profoundly inspires "comebacks," in

people's lives. Campbell skillfully intertwines timely cultural and social issues, using over a dozen memorable characters.

During an interview, Campbell talks about the problems of Black woman.

Q: *Singing in the Comeback Choir* portrays the various struggles of black women of different generations.

What problems do black women confront today that previous generations didn't?

A: The decline of the extended family has caused all kinds of problems, and exacerbated the ones we already have.

For example, black women have been single since slavery. During the

second half of the twentieth century, the percentage of unmarried black mothers increased dramatically.

What makes single motherhood more difficult today is that many young women are forced to rear their children without the help of family.

Whether they are poor, unmarried, and on welfare or middle-class and divorced, single mothers often find themselves far from a familial support system.

My mother and father were divorced. My grandmother lived with my mother, my aunt, my cousin and me.

Nana was the one who took us to and from school, and monitored our behavior. Today, grand-

mothers who are in their fifties, as Nana was when I was a child, are more likely to be working than taking care of their grandchildren.

Many more black women are college graduates than ever before. This represents progress, but it doesn't always feel that way.

Professional black women face hurdles their grandmothers never imagined. In corporate America, there is a glass ceiling for women and minorities.

Black women are trying to advance within institutions where they are often made to feel alienated and isolated.

Conformity is the nature of corporations; all who aspire to success within company ranks must adhere to a rigid set of rules. Over-

coming their outsider status is very difficult for most black women, and few women who taught me piano and dance.

My family and former community continue to shape me even as an adult. I still spend time in Philadelphia and in North Carolina.

When my daughter was growing up, I shipped her off to Philly and she visited both grandparents' homes during the summer.

There was informal and extended family for her as well.

She is very close to her godmother and to some of my girlfriends who served as aunts for her.

So family and community continue to be important.

Book Review

Nelson's struggles as a female journalist flowed into 'Volunteer Slavery'

By Ngina A. Stringer
A Special to The Panther

The novel "Volunteer Slavery" by Jill Nelson is an intriguing, honestly written novel that explains her "authentic Negro experience" as a member of the Washington Post staff. The novel is an autobiography about an African American woman journalist, dealing with the negative, unjust attitudes of Caucasians, women and men in the workplace.

After Nelson received her journalism degrees from the City College of New York and Columbia Journalism School, she began a career as a freelance writer—a position never having any rules or regulations placed on her writing style or ability.

By accepting a position at the Washington Post, she not only placed herself in a controlled physical environment, but under a certain level of mental constraint which later caused her to have a nervous breakdown. She stated that she felt that she was caught between "the thin line between Uncle Tomming and Mau Mauing."

The title "Volunteer Slavery" is appropriate for this book, generally because the definition of volunteer and slavery as stated in the Webster's Collegiate Dictionary are one who offers himself for a service of his own free will, and a person held against his will and made to work for another. Although these two words have exact opposite meanings, they show Nelson's concise feelings.

She voluntarily took the position at the Washington Post in order to give her daughter, Misu, "the All-American lifestyle" because she was never financially able to offer her all the materialistic things in life. In the process, she had to give up her freedom as a self-sufficient woman which made her a slave to society.

Nelson had a certain way of expressing her personal feelings and thoughts throughout this novel. She was completely honest and barred no prisoners by plainly using names of former co-workers who had in some way made her four years at the Washington Post unbearable. She explicitly told in-

imate details about her drug and alcohol addictions, promiscuous sexual experiences and her quick-tempered attitude. Although these were very personal issues in her life, it was necessary that they be told in order for the reader to completely understand the choices she made throughout her life.

The author's basic goal was to inform the reader about the obstacles that must be encounter by many African Americans and woman in order to climb the so-called "ladder of success."

An individual working or interested in pursuing a career that deals with any field pertaining to mass media, who is African American or female would be interested in reading this novel, mainly because they are more likely to relate to this book.

The author wrote this novel in a journalistic format that was easy to read. There are short chapters which allow the reader to want to go on and read more. This novel was far from exciting or adventurous though it was very thought-provoking.

ENTERTAINMENT

Signs of the Times

ARIES (March 21 TO April 19) Be sure to follow through on family commitments. Don't allow bickering over small matters to spoil your week. Family members are undecided about who does what, so be prepared to delegate responsibilities accordingly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Make plans for some future travel and also for fun and exciting times. There may be one monetary dispute on your mind, but rest assured that all is well. A friend surprises you with an interesting suggestion this weekend.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Leisure activities and romance are highlighted, but a pushy friend could irritate you. Work developments bring an improvement in your income. However, don't let a pessimist's gloom and doom prophecies drag your buoyant mood down.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Although it's not a good week for signing papers, you are in agreement with partners and clients about important issues. This sets a harmonious stone for the entire week. Socializing is a plus this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The emphasis is definitely on saving rather than spending. Look for possible investments that will make your money work for you. Investigate innovative options and opportunities,

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)



A few cross words with a partner could temporarily upset you, but overall, this is a good week for conveying ideas and enjoying leisure activities. For the most part, those around you are cooperative and in a good mood. Key in on them for peace of mind.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Speaking up is preferable to moodiness and keeping things in. Powerful connections prove helpful to you in business. The weekend accents togetherness with friends and family.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You certainly should stay away from gambling. Also, try not to overspend. Indications are that a heart-to-heart talk will benefit both you and a loved one regarding a mutual concern.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A family member is quite moody this week. Make sure everyone at home has the chance to participate in a project. Doing so will insure that no one feels left out or ignored.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Dealing with a co-worker's sensitivities can be quite trying. Once you detach yourself from this situation, you'll begin to make progress. This person's feeling are being blown out of proportion.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You're the one who's so concerned about reputation, so be careful not to jeopardize it with foolish or indiscreet behavior. However, should you slip, don't be too hard on yourself. Learn from your mistakes instead.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Dieters who have been too lax with themselves could go on a big-time binge. Adopt moderation, if possible. Get sufficient and well-deserved rest over the weekend.

The Players Club soundtrack gets no play

Rapper/actor Ice Cube makes his first directorial debut in *The Players Club*, a film he wrote and co-stars in with Bernie Mac, A.J. Johnson and Jamie Foxx. The film is getting rave reviews by movie critics, but the soundtrack gets two thumbs down as I decide whether to throw the CD out the window while driving down 290.

The album starts off with the current party anthem "We Be Clubbin'" by Ice Cube and then proceeds to "We Be Clubbin' (Remix)" featuring DMX.

The soundtrack then takes a turn for the worse with Ice Cube's "Who Are You Lovin'" featuring Mr. Short Khop. This cut doesn't make you move at all, unless you're moving to push the skip button.

R&B ladies Changing Faces make an impressive appearance on the soundtrack with "Same Tempo", while Kurupt of Tha Dogg Pound swings and

misses with "Under Pressure". One is only to wonder if Kurupt was "under pressure" to record this wack song.

One of the few highlights on this soundtrack is



the Ice Cube and Master P collabo "You Know I'm A Ho". The song is followed by another tag team success when Scarface and Mack 10 hook up on "You Delinquent".

"From Marcy to Hollywood" by Jay-Z featuring Memphis Bleek and Sauce Money is another cut on the soundtrack which gets props. The song is about staying true once you make it big because you might end up right where you started.

After Mia X's rump shakin' "Shake Whatcha Mama Gave Ya (But Make Sho' Your Ni**as Pay Ya)" the album falls off indisputably.

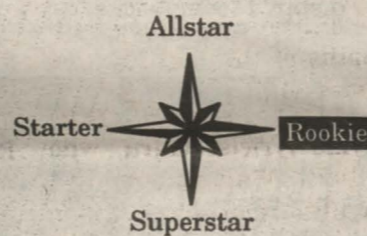
Out of the last five songs, none of them are worth listening to.

Even Jodeci's Mr. Dalvin tries to do his thing (...Hey, here's a 20 question: If Mr. Dalvin never sang while he was with Jodeci, what made him think he could sing a song solo?)

The Players Club sounds rushed and mediocre so here's a tip: Don't rush out and buy it.

art work By Corey M. Lewis

Panther Music Ratings:



By Brandon E. Allen

PICK-A-FLICK

The first persons to figure out the names of the following movies will win a video courtesy Miramax Home Entertainment. Claim your prize by giving us the correct answers and bringing this issue of the paper to The Panther in the bottom of the MSC, Rm 114.

___ S. B. ___

Hint: 2 words; A colorful lady

___ H. ___ US ___ O. Y. ___

Hint: 3 words; a positive residence

M. ___ N. ___ CE

Hint: 1 word; a groovy star



The Panther would like to thank and congratulate all the winners of the Pick-A-Flick column. Here are the winners of last issue's Pick-A-Flick:

- Trevor Piper, freshman, Architecture
- LaKeith Moore, senior, Electrical Engineering
- Christopher Griffin, junior, Communications
- Tony Johnson, freshman, Social Work
- Royal Collins, sophomore, Computer Science
- Kari Corbett, junior, Pre Med

Gang Starr's Moment of Truth reigns hip-hop royalty



Prairie View's own DJ Premier (left) and lyricist Guru (right) make up Gang Starr

Old school rap duo Gang Starr has provided hip-hop heads with their fifth album, *Moment of Truth*, a musical journey through the depths of the hardcore underground.

The trek is guided by rhyme lyricist Guru, who calls the album a survival kit for the urban junglist, and Prairie View A&M University's own DJ Premier, son of Dean Edward Martin of the College of Arts & Sciences. Premier has laced tracks for Jay-Z, Nas, and the late Notorious B.I.G.

The 18-song set is Gang Starr's most assured work to date. Since debuting in 1986, Gang Starr has consistently ranked among hip-hop's most respected and *Moment of Truth* confirms beyond a reasonable doubt that its mastery only increases

over time.

Moment of Truth opens with the head-bangin' "You Know My Steez" and escalates to the clever "Robin Hood Theory."

Guru (whose moniker stands for Gifted Unlimited Rhymes Universal) and Premier shine equally on songs "Work" and "Royalty" which features K-Ci & JoJo.

On "Royalty", perhaps the stand-out cut on the LP, Gurus spits "...whether you kids be holding on the block all day/ or you be puffin' la out on the back hallway/ or whether you be in school or in the library/ wherever you are baby par realize that the essence is divine son/ and let it shine son, as we refine son, heyo, this s@%t'll blow your mind son, we're royalty..."

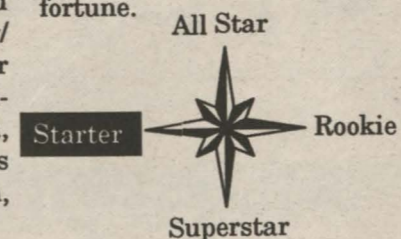
The CD scores with songs like "Above the Clouds"

featuring Inspectah Deck of Wu-Tang, "JFK to LAX", and the throbbin' "Itz a Setup".

Geto Boy Scarface makes an appearance on the so-so "Betrayal," while the average "Make 'Em Pay" showcases underground talent Krumsbnatcha.

Moment of Truth is sure to please the avid hip-hop listener in more ways than one.

The combination of Guru's elevated rhyme style with Premier's ear-candy beats create a fulfilling fifth fortune.



Zharmer H. Hardimon
Entertainment Editor

PHAT DIME

- The Panther's current top ten in no particular order
- Victory-Puff Daddy f/ B.I.G. & Busta Rhymes
 - I Got the Hook Up-Master P f/ Sons of Funk
 - We Be Clubbin' (Remix)-Ice Cube f/ DMX
 - Let's Ride (Remix)-Montell Jordan f/ Master P
 - Money, Power & Respect-LOX f/ Li'l Kim & DMX
 - Be Careful-Sparkle f/ R. Kelly
 - All My Life-K-Ci & JoJo
 - I Get Lonely-Janet Jackson
 - Turn It Up/Fire It Up-Busta Rhymes
 - Sex Faces- f/ Too Short & Tela

20 Questions

- Why did the SGA debates turn into an episode of *The Jerry Springer Show*?
- Why was the wait for Ice Cube 5 hours and the performance only 5 minutes?
- Does W.C. stand for Wasn't Coming?
- Why is the Homecoming concert for the alumni and Springfest concert for the locals?
- Aren't we all going to miss Derrick Ross?
- Why are Sparkle and R. Kelly singing an argument in that "Be Careful" song?
- Who is Big Fuller?
- Is Pops (you know the man with the raspy voice) PV's oldest teenager?
- Is it just us, or does this school need to open up a daycare on campus?
- Why is security so tight in the Village that residents can't even get in?
- What's up with the street in front of Farrell Hall?
- Since there's no room in the budget for street repairs, will it ever get fixed?
- Did you know our Men's Track Relay team won second place in the Texas Relays?
- Why are Band-Aids 25 cents in the Health Center?
- Isn't the *Player's Club* the Black version of Demi Moore's *Striptease*?
- We always tell someone they're on "C.P Time" if they're late, what do we say if they're on time?
- Is the softball team on their way to winning the SWAC championship?
- Is 1998 the year of PV sports, or what?
- Why did the campus police give some organizations tickets for honking their horns?
- What do you think?

Open Mic

Do you think about us...?

do you think about us when you hold his hand, thinking how good it was, you were my woman and I was your man.

do you think about us when he makes love to you at night, constantly thinking my name laying there staring at the moonlight.

do you think about us when the two of you fuss and fight, we never had problems, everything was alright.

do you think about us when he forgets the little things that you appreciate, everything for you was top priority, so you would never have to wait.

do you think about us when there is a major problem, he bails out leaves you hanging, I was always there to solve them.

do you think about us and dream it was still the same, you chose to be a player, and caught up in the game.

-j. drake

ENTERTAINMENT

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Commentary

Panther sports lack sponsorship



John Scott
News Editor

Here's an interesting question, why is it, that of the 18 sports Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) participates in throughout the year, only football and basketball are considered money making sports by the school?

Here's another question, if those two sports are the only one's on the yard making money, why are they forced to operate with only the minimum amount of scholarships allowed by National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules.

The answer my friends is marketing and promotion, or should I say the lack thereof.

Think about it. In just this past year alone, PVAMU athletes have demonstrated competitiveness or downright dominance in a number of sports besides football and basketball.

This is exactly what corporate sponsors want to be associated with, yet is there anyone from the university approaching them to cut the deals?

Apparently not, otherwise more than just two sports would be considered money makers on the yard.

For example, the track and field team who are indoor conference champions, ranking third in the nation in 4x400 meter relay.

This team may also be soon the outdoor conference champions, have given the university the opportunity to reap huge gains both in the financial and public relations departments.

Yet where are the sponsors? Who's going after them? I mean the list of potential sponsors is lengthy, PowerBar, Visa, MasterCard,

PowerAde, Gatorade, ATT, Southwestern Bell, not forgetting the obvious Nike, Adidas, and Reebok as well as many others.

Money can be garnered from any or all of these companies in exchange for allowing advertising at track meets, banners being hung for tables to be set up for the passing out of literature, or the exclusive wearing and licensing of apparel.

This money can then in turn be used to not only secure the best track athletes through scholarships, but also promote that sports home events and the school itself through television and radio spots aimed at drawing larger crowds and thus more sponsors.

These spots can also serve in an academic capacity in that they can be planned and put together by marketing, advertising, and communications students who are studying to do exactly that in their careers.

This gives the students practical experience while cutting down on the amount the school has to spend for planning and producing marketing campaigns for each sport, which frees up money for improvement of facilities, both sport and academic.

If this formula were applied to all the sports PVAMU participates in including basketball and football just think of how much money would be available, not just from the sponsors, but from proud alumni.

Not to mention the additional tuition's of students who's attention the school was brought to throw the aggressive marketing of it's sports.

So again I ask, who has the full time responsibility of marketing the athletic talent of PVAMU?

If the answer is no one, then I propose someone be found, because in order for a school to grow big and strong it's athletics must do so first.

Softball Team wins division championship

By LaTasha Wiggins
Panther Staff

Sense last years season the softball team has come a long way.

Making an outstanding come back with a winning record of 19-9, the Lady Panthers are now Division Champions and looking forward to SWAC on April 17.

Softball player Latresha Williams said, "it's a great feeling to know that we are going."

Even though the team lost to Sam Houston State last week (11-0) in the first game and (9-0) in the

second, the team beat Wiley last Saturday with a score of 7-3 in the first half and 4-1 in the second.

"The loss brought the team back to reality and still they continue to play like winners," said Head Coach A.D. James.

Team member LaTresha Williams said, "They didn't beat us we beat ourselves, also the Wiley game was good because of the transition."

Now that Prairie View's softball team is looking up and going forward Coach James said he feels they will get more support.

"The University is behind the basketball and soft-

ball team and they think they're the best for the SWAC Championship," said James.

On April 6, the Lady Panthers played Texas Southern University and won with a score of 15-12.

"They let them get away, and they needed the killer instinct, plus there were errors on outs but they pulled it through," said Coach James, commenting on the TSU win.

Both the coaches and the players said they are looking forward to winning SWAC this year.



Tennis Tips

STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS



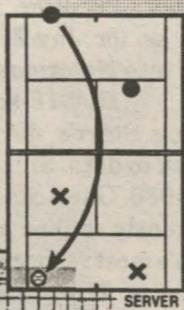
DOUBLES: CHIP RETURN

Against a strong serve, one of the receiver's best options is to chip the backhand crosscourt at the server's feet.

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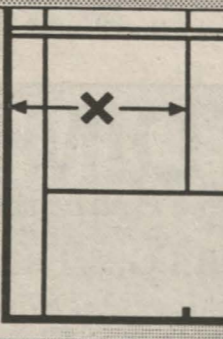


Another good choice is the deep lob down the line - effective as a change of pace or a good way to get the opponents off the net.



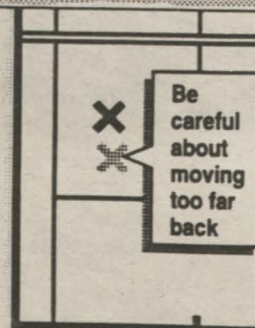
DOUBLES: NET POSITION

The proper net position depends on your level of play. Better players stand farther back. Generally, stand about halfway between the center line and the sideline.



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Some players prefer to stand a little farther back, so they can reach lobs more easily. However, when standing too far back, the ball has a tendency to dip below your waist and you'll have to hit a more difficult low volley. Also, by standing too far back, you give more room to your opponent to hit the crosscourt shot.



Be careful about moving too far back

History of SWAC originated in Texas

SWAC Headquarters

The Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) is now 78 years old.

In 1920, eight men representing six colleges of Texas met in Houston to discuss collegiate athletics and the many challenges which faced their respective institutions. By the time the session was over, the men had founded an athletic league that would go on to become one of the leading sports associations in the world of collegiate athletics; the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC).

The original conference included: Bishop College (1920-56), Paul Quinn College (1920-29), Sam Houston College (1920-59), Texas College (1920-68), Wiley College (1920-68), and Prairie View A&M College (1920-present).

Two years after Paul Quinn College withdrew from the league, Langston University of Langston, Oklahoma was admitted into the SWAC in 1931.

Langston's admission began the migration of state-supported schools into the SWAC.

Other schools that followed were Southern University in 1934, Arkansas AM&N in 1936, Texas Southern in 1954, and two more state-sup-

ported schools, Grambling College and Jackson College in 1958.

Bishop College withdrew from the conference in 1956, Langston in 1957, and Sam Houston in 1959 due to the rapid growth in enrollment of the state-supported schools which made it difficult for the church-supported schools to finance their athletic programs.

The enter-exit cycle continued through 1961 when Texas College withdrew, followed by the admittance of Alcorn A&M in 1962. Mississippi Valley State entered the conference in 1968.

The same year Wiley College withdrew. Arkansas AM&N withdrew in 1970 and Alabama State entered the conference in 1982. On July 1, 1997, Arkansas-Pine Bluff, formerly Arkansas AM&N, rejoined the conference after 27 years.

The SWAC's current members include: Alabama State University (Montgomery, Ala.), Alcorn State University (Lorman, Miss.), the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (Pine Bluff, Ark.), Grambling State University (Grambling, La.), Jackson State University (Jackson, Miss.), Mississippi Valley State University (Itta Bena, Miss.), the only original member of the conference Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX), Southern Uni-

versity (Baton Rouge, La.), and Texas Southern University (Houston, TX).

Representing the SWAC in pro halls of fame are football stars Lem Barney (Jackson State/Detroit Lions), Mel Blount (Southern/Pittsburgh Steelers), Willie Brown (Grambling State/Oakland Raiders), Buck Buchanan (Grambling State/Kansas City Chiefs), Kenny Houston (Prairie View A&M/Houston Oilers and Washington Redskins), David "Deacon" Jones (Mississippi Valley/Los Angeles Rams, San Diego Chargers, and Washington Redskins), and Walter Payton (Jackson State/Chicago Bears), Baseball stars Lou Brock (Southern/St. Louis Cardinals) and Bill Foster (Alcorn State/Negro Leagues); and basketball star Willis Reed (Grambling State/New York Knicks).

Competition membership for the SWAC, which is headquartered in New Orleans, LA, on the Division 1-AA level includes title races for men in baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, and tennis.

Women's competition is offered in the sports of basketball, bowling, cross country, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, softball, tennis, and volleyball.



Name: Raelynn Gaut

Age: 21-years-old

Major: Secondary Human Performance

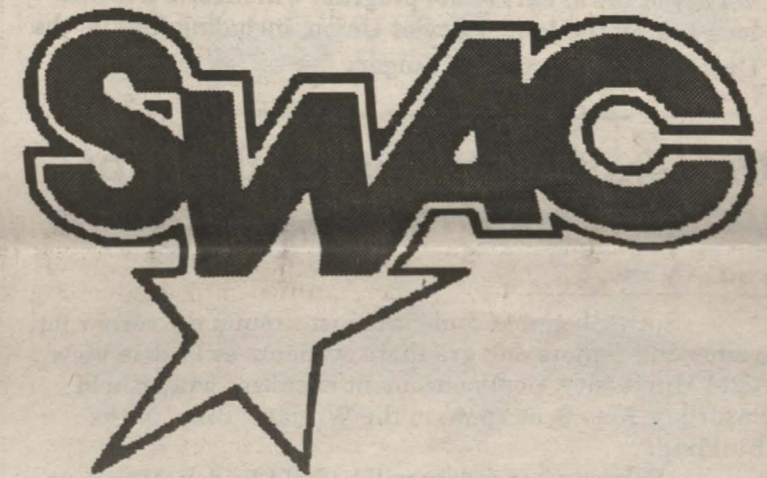
Began athletic career: at 10-years-old

Position: First Base

Personal best: First Base

Favorite junk food: Anything Sweet

Personal quote:
"I'm proud of how far we've come this year, we tried to get wins and now we are Division Champs."



Cindy doesn't know the meaning of "underserved."

NHSC clinicians in her community work hard to be sure she never will.

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<http://www.bphc.hrsa.dhhs.gov/nhsc/nhsc.htm>



NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS

The National Health Service Corps is a program of the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care, which is the focal point for providing primary health care to underserved and vulnerable populations.



In Brief

UT hosts symphonic band, concert choir

Prairie View, TX

Prairie View A&M University's Symphonic Band and the University Concert Chorale will be presented in concert at the upcoming 12th Annual Heman Sweatt Memorial Symposium on Civil Rights. On Thursday, April 16, both groups will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Bates Recital Hall at the University of Texas. The concert is being co-sponsored by the Heman Sweatt Memorial Committee and the Austin Chapter of the Prairie View A&M University Alumni Association.

PV professor will travel to foreign countries

Prairie View, TX

The Division of Social and Political Science announced that Mr. Ronald Server, Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Program has been selected to participate in the National Security Education Program (NESP) entitled "Improving Educational Opportunities Among Diverse Student Populations" to be held this summer at the University of Iowa. Part of the program will involve a month long tour of the former Soviet Union, including Russia, the Ukraine, Budapest, and Hungary.

University sets preparations for spring commencement ceremony

Prairie View, TX

Spring commencement is just around the corner for graduating seniors and graduate students at Prairie View A&M University. Commencement exercises will be held Saturday, May 9, at 2p.m. in the William "Billy" Nicks Building.

Rehearsal exercises will be held Friday, May 8, at 8:30 a.m., also in the "Billy" Nicks Building. Candidates for graduation are expected to attend the rehearsal session in preparation for the commencement program Saturday.

Recommended dress for commencement is white or dark dresses for women; dark dress shoes (medium heels for women) and small earring (for women). Jackets are not necessary for men.

Candidates for graduation must report by 1 p.m., Saturday, May 9, in order to participate in the commencement exercises.

Extension program honors award winners

Prairie View, TX

Twelve individuals received the Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program "Distinguished Service Award" at the 1998 State Extension Training Conference, held in Houston, TX, March 4-6, 1998.

In addition to award presentations, this year's training conference included county exhibitions, program area workshops, presentations focusing on diversity, and dealing with challenging situations in the workplace.

The Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View University holds its State Training Conference annually, and recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the organization during this conference.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Easter Holiday 10: 45 p.m. Ecumenical Worship Service - Johnson Phillips All Faiths Chapel Rho Chi Psi Easter Egg Hunt	Inter-national Students Organization (ISO) Soccer Tournament 7 p.m. Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) - "Importance of Networking" 7 p.m. Sigma Gamma Rho Seminars	Early Registration for Summer I & II ISO Soccer Tournament SGA Meeting Church of Christ Students - Seminar 7 p.m. Sigma Gamma Rho Seminars	Registration for Summer I & II ISO - Soccer Tournament 6 p.m. TSU vs. PVU Softball 7 p.m. AKA - Relaxation Experience Gamma Sigma Seminars Phi Beta Sigma - 5th Annual Roundball Classic	Purple & Gold Day 5 p.m. ISO - Yardshow 7 p.m. Phi Beta Lambda - Spring Banquet	Early Registration for Summer I & II Ends SWAC Tournament Softball	Early Registration for Summer I & II and Fall Semester Graduate Students SWAC Tournament Softball

Kappa Beach Party

Thursday, April 16

Kappa Comedy Jam
7:30 p.m. Hannah Hall
Auditorium on the campus of Texas Southern University

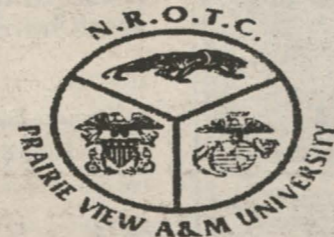
Friday, April 17

Beach Party Kickoff
8 p.m. Astro Arena
Houston, TX

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Merit based scholarships are available to those who qualify. Our scholarships pay full tuition, university fees, textbooks and your uniforms are provided for free. Also, all scholarship winners receive a monthly stipend of \$150.00 per month. If you have what it takes and are interested in a potential career as a Naval or Marine Corps Officer, contact LT Terrence Thomas on campus at (409) 857-2310 or drop by the Naval Science Building.

COMIC RELIEF

Black from page 2

Attending a university that is suppose to be a place of higher learning and advancement, why are 'educated' males running around Drew Hall fighting each other at night, when they could be studying? It does not stop at Drew, there are 'educated' males living in the village also. During the past '97 homecoming, instead of conversing like a majority of others, some male chose to jump another brother.

What happened to the days when a man's fight was personal and private, between one person and another?

At a zero tolerance institution, my last question pertains to the children that are suppose to be mature adults furthering their education. Mature meaning that differences can be talked out and people stay out of business that does not involve them or concern them.

As Black men struggling in a violent and prejudice society outside of Prairie View's campus, wouldn't be a better idea to help each other advance, so that we all can make it, instead of beating on each other, going to jail, and wasting young talents that could have been?

NASA from page 7

and contracting expertise of the university foundation was a real positive," said Kenneth Martindale, International Space Station, Small Business Administrator for NASA Johnson Space Center.

"Other HBCUs were considered, but overall the good NASA/PVAMU experience on other projects helped PVAMU to win out," Martindale added.

After three years, NASA will extend all aspects of its space software engineering training program to other HBCUs and minority institu-

tions. According to Martindale, the International Space Station will be in Earth's orbit for years, allowing it to be a world-class laboratory while the Space Shuttle is launched for a little over two weeks.

The United States and Russia will work collaboratively with 13 countries in the International Space Station program.

Students will receive experimental projects from NASA which will challenge them (students) to create new software to aid in the operation and research of the Inter-

national Space Station. "Most everything runs on software and in some cases if it's not designed properly, it can be life or death," said Oliver, who also stressed that "It has to be done right because it's very risky in space."

"I think the NASA and PVAMU team on this software engineering initiative is a great idea," said Martindale.

"It should enhance the University's program and provide NASA with some highly desired skilled graduates for problem solving and making improvements for the International Space Station."



HOCUS-FOCUS



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.
Differences: 1. Lamp is different. 2. TV dial is missing. 3. Shirts are moved. 4. Pants are different. 5. Shade wheel is missing. 6. Frame is drinker.

MAGIC MAZE

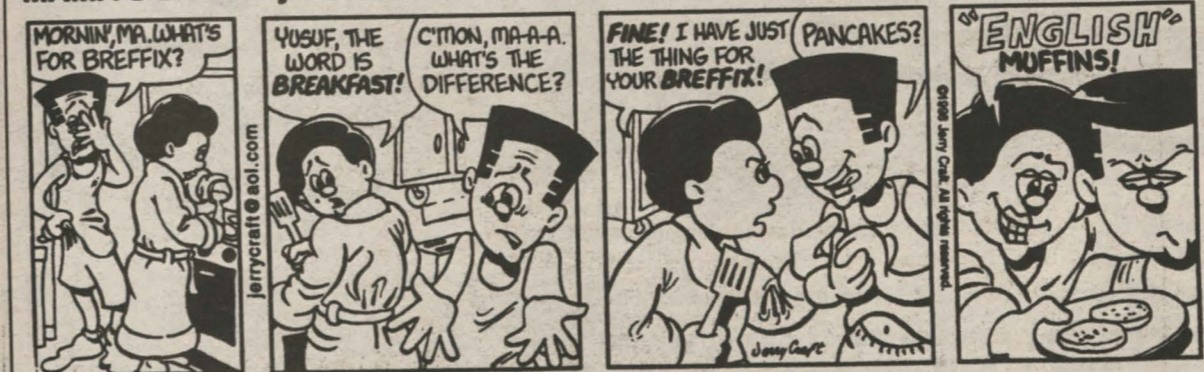
SNOWBOARDING

XUROLIEBYVSEON0
KHEBMOUNTAINSY6
WTROLJGEBLSEGS3
YWURPTMLEHNNCG
KIGDBJZOGSXRVN
SQOMKUIDAGUFDEI
CAYWUMERRTFSNQN
PNLJHPCFXAWEICN
AYXVUSBARGOSBOI
PNMKJHSTOBBFEP
CBZYREDIRETTOPS

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions-forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Bindings
- Board
- Boots
- Crashes
- Edges
- Grabs
- Jumps
- Mountains
- Ollie
- Flied
- Spinning 360
- Spotter
- Traffic
- Turns
- Wax

MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT

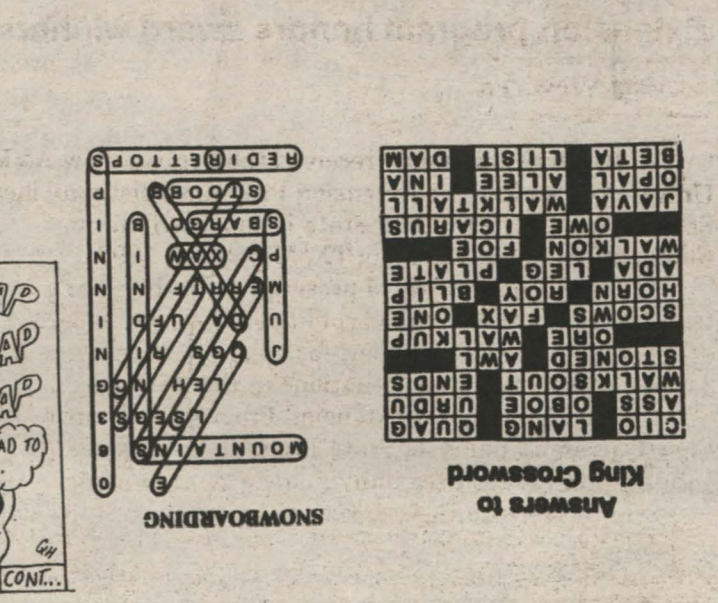
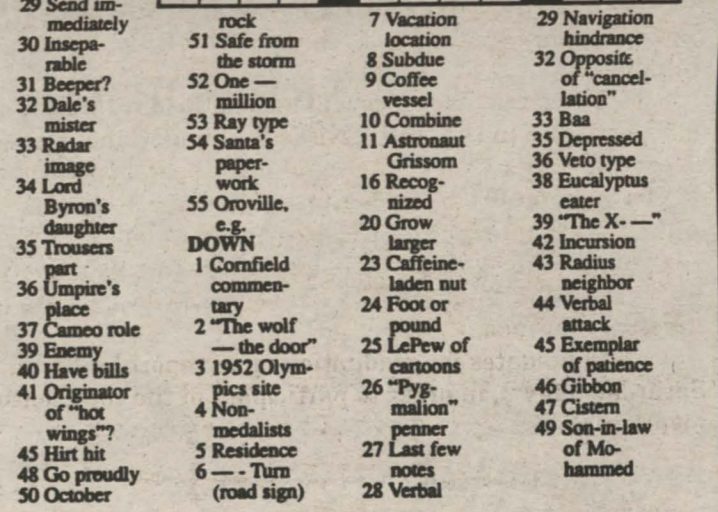


P.V.'s Own "Jus' Chillin'": By Quincy Higgins



KING CROSSWORD

ACROSS	1 AFL merger org.	4 "M" director	8 Swampy area	12 Ninny	13 Organ stop	14 Pakistan's language	15 Leaves in a huff	17 Their jobs are on the line	18 Awarded, a la "The Lottery"	19 Piercing tool	21 Raw rock	22 Sans elevator	26 Barges	29 Send immediately	30 Inseparable	31 Beeper?	32 Dale's mister	33 Radar image	34 Lord Byron's daughter	35 Trousers part	36 Umpire's place	37 Cameo role	39 Enemy	40 Have bills	41 Originator of "hot wings"?	45 Hirt hit	48 Go proudly	50 October					
DOWN	1 Cornfield commentary	2 "The wolf - the door"	3 1952 Olympics site	4 Non-medalists	5 Residence	6 - - Turn (road sign)	7 Vacation location	8 Subdue	9 Coffee vessel	10 Combine	11 Astronaut	16 Recognized	20 Grow larger	23 Caffeine-laden nut	24 Foot or pound	25 LePew of cartoons	26 "Pygmalion" penner	27 Last few notes	28 Verbal	29 Navigation hindrance	32 Opposite of "cancellation"	33 Baa	35 Depressed	36 Veto type	38 Eucalyptus eater	39 "The X-"	42 Incurion	43 Radius neighbor	44 Verbal attack	45 Exemplar of patience	46 Gibbon	47 Cistem	49 Son-in-law of Mohammed



THE FINAL WORD

Black college experience redeems ancestral struggle

By Zhamer Hardimon
Entertainment Editor

sophomore year here, and being greeted by the dorm director and three student workers who were very helpful. They told us how much they loved the school and encouraged me to attend because the students were like a big family.

The dorm director gave us his address and telephone number and told us to contact him if we needed anything.

After I bought a T-shirt from the bookstore, we headed back home. This was the day I decided to attend Prairie View A&M University, a day I will always remember.

Ever since my sophomore year in high school, I wanted to attend a historically black college or university because

all through high school and junior high I attended predominantly white schools. I had black and white friends but I always felt like there was something missing. There was a cultural void that needed to be filled badly.

I wanted to go to a

"... all I would see were the beautiful shades of my people."

school where when I turned around, all I would see were the beautiful shades of my people. I longed for a place where my dialect was understood by everyone around me. I was in need of a place where I could learn more about myself and my history.

I was determined to find a place with all these qualities and more and I did here at Prairie View.

I chose to attend this school because there was a time our people were beaten and even killed for trying to read a book. I attend this school for all my ancestors who fought and died for a day when Black people would have the opportunity to equal education.

It is my responsibility to seize the day and make those long before me proud. I have an obligation to uphold as an African-American leader of the 21st century.

Five years have literally flown by since that blazing August day that brought me to the place where I am today.

It's hard to believe I'm a senior and will be leaving soon. Many people thought I would not make it this far. They assumed that by attending a Black school, I would have too much fun and flunk out.

Well, I have definitely had a lot of fun, but I have also experienced what has thus far been the best years of my life. I have matured at this school surrounded by all my people.

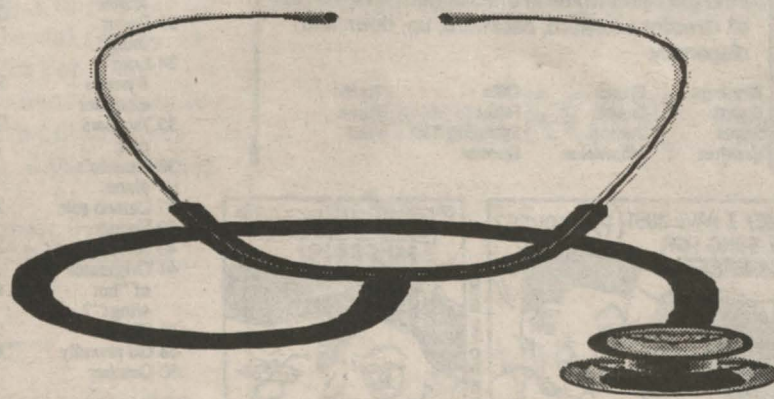
The decision to come to this school and continue to come semester after semester until I graduate was one of the best choices I have made. This institution has been all I have known for the past four years.

I have been inspired by the history of this university and will cherish the time I have spent here forever.

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| 2. Accountable Health | 19. Benefit Planner | 56. John Alden |
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| 4. Aetna Open Choice | 21. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of TX | 58. John Hancock |
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| 6. Affordable Medical Networks | 23. Capp Care Network | 60. Liberty Mutual |
| 7. Alliance Health Providers | 24. Central Security Life Insurance Co. | 61. Managed Health Care |
| 8. Allied Benefit Systems, Inc. | 25. Champs | 62. Medicaid |
| 9. American Exchange Life Insurance Co. | 26. Choice 100 | 63. Med Corp Southwest, Inc. |
| 10. American General Health Plan | 27. Cigna Companies | 64. Medicare |
| 11. American Group Administrators | 28. CNA Companies | 65. Mega Life |
| 12. American Insurance Co. of Texas | 29. Cost Care | 66. Mid-Continent Medical |
| 13. American Medical Security | 30. Crown Life | 67. Memorial Health Network |
| 14. American Pioneer Life Insurance Co. | 31. EBP Health Plans | 68. Memorial Sisters of Charity |
| 15. American Reserve | 32. EDS Health Benefit Plans | 69. Met Life |
| 16. Anthem Health Plan | 33. ETHIX Southwest | 70. Metra Health |
| 17. APWU | 34. Fed Select | 71. Monticello Life Insurance Company |
| | 35. First Health | 72. Motorola Health Plan |
| | 36. GEHA | 73. Mutual of Omaha |
| | 37. Golden Rule Life | |
| | | 74. National Automatic Sprinkler Industry |
| | | 75. National Foundation Life Insurance Co. |
| | | 76. National Health Care Alliance |
| | | 77. Northwest Houston Providers Alliance |
| | | 78. Northwestern National Life |
| | | 79. NYL Care (PPO) |
| | | 80. One Health Plan of Texas |
| | | 81. PPO of Texas |
| | | 82. Philadelphia Life |
| | | 83. Phoenix - Home Life |
| | | 84. Preferred Health Network |
| | | 85. Preferred Plan of TX |
| | | 86. Presidential Life Insurance Co. |
| | | 87. Private Health Care Systems |
| | | 88. Provident Life |
| | | 89. Regit |
| | | 90. Sanus Report (PPO) |
| | | 91. Sierra Health |
| | | 92. Southwest Home Life Insurance Co |
| | | 93. Standard Insurance Company |
| | | 94. Student Insurance |
| | | 95. Tareco, Inc. (PPO) |
| | | 96. Tareco PPO & EPO |
| | | 97. Texas Municipal League |
| | | 98. The Lubrizel Corporation |
| | | 99. Time Life |
| | | 100. TIPHO |
| | | 101. Travelers |
| | | 102. USA Health Network |
| | | 103. Unicare |
| | | 104. United Payers & Providers, Inc. |
| | | 105. Washington National |
| | | 106. Workmen Compensation |