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The

Panther

February 20, 1998

Vol. 75, No. 5

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

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Catch up on the latest in sports



Mitchell crowned Miss Black and Gold 1998-1999



Miss Black & Gold 1998-99
Ebony Mitchell

by Jo-Carolyn Goode
Panther Staff

Emotions of nine young ladies were extremely high as one of them was crowned Miss Black and Gold.

The 14th annual Miss Black and Gold Pageant was sponsored by the Eta Gamma and Epsilon Tau Lambda Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

The pageant, chaired by Reggie Ekins, focused on the contestants' academic qualifications, interviewing skills, and

talent. Chrystal Bender, former Miss Black and Gold and current Miss Prairie View A&M University, and Oveal Walker, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. were the hosts of the event.

Kendra Stillwell, Misty Adams, Miesha Sanders, Krystal Hopton, LaKenya Henderson, Letrice Dickerson, Lamika Joseph, Pamela Ward, and Ebony Mitchell took the audience on a blast to the past through the pageant's theme "Black and Gold Soul Train".

The reigning Miss Black and Gold Tanisha LaRu Cosby, passed her crown on to excited 19-year-old Ebony Nicole Mitchell.

Mitchell, is currently a freshman nursing major with a minor in social work and a native of Orange, TX.

She hopes to graduate in the top 10% of her nursing class and to someday own her own pediatric practice. She is actively involved in the Psychology and Nursing Clubs.

Mitchell's dramatic interpretation of an abused three-year-old child was tear-jerking.

Her beauty in the swimsuit and evening gown competitions, and answer to the question on affirmative action helped her win the crown.

Lamika Joseph, 18, of Missouri City, won first runner-up while Letrice Chanel Dickerson, 18, of Chicago, Illinois, gained second runner-up.

Plaques were also given to Misty Adams for the most ads sold, and Meisha Sanders received two awards—one for Miss Congeniality and the other for best talent.

See Pageant on page 6

PV to host annual Peace Corps Day

Prairie View, TX

Prairie View A & M University has been selected by the Peace Corps to celebrate this year's Peace Corps Day on March 2 and 3. Working in collaboration with the Peace Corps, the university will be highlighting the professional and personal opportunities that can be gained as a volunteer member of the Peace Corps.

"Peace Corps Days at Prairie View" will feature a kickoff reception, multiple information tables across campus, film showings, and classroom visits by Peace Corps representatives.

"We know the Peace Corps provides an extraordinary opportunity to graduating students to broaden their experiences in the international community while making a significant contribution to others," said J.E. Pennywell, Director of Career Planning and Outreach Center.

Dr. Morris Baker, Director of the Southwest Regional Office, and Ambassador Charles Baquet, Deputy Director of the Peace Corps will be among four recruiters in the Peace Corps' delegation coming to Prairie View.

As African Americans who served in the Peace Corps, both Baquet and Baker share a strong conviction that the Peace Corps provides a unique opportunity for professional and personal growth.

"Living in Somalia as a young man was an important step in my education," said Baquet, who later served as U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti.

Baker said, "I have found that as an African American, the Peace Corps experience has made my professional path brighter, smoother, and more exciting."

For further information about this event, please contact the Career Planning Outreach Center at (409) 857-2120/2123.

Honda Campus All-Star team set for competition in Florida

By Michael A. Smith
Special to The Panther

Prairie View A&M University stands posed to compete in the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge 1998, the first academic competition between Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Modeled after the Peabody and Emmy Award winning College Bowl television program, the 1998 Challenge features teams comprised of four students and an alternate.

Each team represents a participating Historically and/or Predominately Black College or University in competition for a share of monetary grants to upgrade campus facilities, institutional resources and the general improvement of life at the institution.

Prairie View A&M University is one of 64 Historically and/or Predominately Black Colleges and Universities eligible for the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Tournament

1998. The teams play each other in quarterfinals, and the championship. Competition takes place in Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida from March 12 to March 16.

Prairie View A&M University's team will represent a blend of the old and new, four returning and one rookie addition to the team. Danielle White, Malcolm Sykes, Rayford Mitchell, and captain, Eric McNair are all returning veterans and the rookie addition is Eric Gaither. The team is coached by the Campus Activities Board advisor, Michael A. Smith.

McNair is a sophomore Finance major from Arlington, Texas; Sykes is junior Finance major from Houston, Texas; White is a senior Mechanical Engineering major from Houston, Texas; and Gaither is a senior Spanish/Mass Communications double major from Killeen, Texas.

The national contest is sponsored by American Honda Motor Company and Muse Cordero Chen, Incorporated.

Bush won't bite: Knowledge comes from uncanny sources

By Patrina A. Bostic
Managing Editor

I was shocked to hear intelligent Prairie View students say, "We cannot relate to George Bush as a person."

Well, the last time I checked, we were all human beings with something to contribute.

George Bush became a success. Aren't we all striving for success?

We are not as different from this man as we think. He's merely a white, successful man. So, don't be afraid. He's not the big, bad wolf.

Upon arriving to this country, the African, new African and later African-Americans were forced and taught to believe we were inferior.

Guess what? Unfortunately, many of us without realizing it, are acting inferior. How can we say that we cannot relate to another intelligent human being?

Who, my dear colleagues, do you want to speak at your graduation? Who? Oprah? She is not going to tell you anything different from Bush. The principles are the

same from both sides: put in your time, work hard, save your money, invest, stop complaining and make the best out of your situation, start a new path of your own, look within yourself for strength first, and help as many people who show they want and deserve help as you can on your way up. This is what both Bush, Oprah and other whites and blacks alike have done.

Oh, I forgot. Because many white women love Oprah and she does not hire enough Blacks, she might not be worthy to speak at Prairie View's graduation either.

Another comment I heard on the yard was, "Bush hasn't done anything for me."

Well, all presidents, not just Bush, help the hands who help them.

Was Bush the president for Blacks or for the country?

Richard Nixon said it best—"Blacks can have 50% of all jobs, but until they participate in Black ownership and Black capitalism, their (our) position will remain the same."

My question is who can come to

See **Bush** on page 6

Cat got your tongue?

By Alzo Slade
Panther Staff

Is there something that you want to say to me?

There is no need for you to talk about me behind my back. You will not get anything accomplished doing business like that.

How do you expect to solve problems if you just discuss them among your cliques?

These cliques sit around and wear at the wombs of the problem, instead of acting on it so it can be solved.

Do you realize how much power you have as a student? Currently, our power is limited as a result of our ignorance.

That's right. Most of us walk on campus with complaints and praises bottled up, and we only choose to release them when we are among friends.

We may have a problem with the way the University handles some issues. First of all, why complain about something that you do not have full knowledge of?

Second, if you are going to complain, follow up with action. People approach me with valid concerns only to leave the problem and expect it to be solved without their efforts.

In situations such as this, we often come to the conclusion that they have not done enough through their resources in order to alleviate the problem.

All external efforts are void if the individual or group has not taken it upon themselves to exhaust all resources at their disposal.

In short, how can you expect someone to help you if you do not help yourself? As students, we have a tendency to become fed up so we give up. We give up because we think matters will never change.

That is exactly why they will not change, because the cat has gotcha tongue. When confronted with problems, many students want to go directly to the top of the chain of command.

What we have to realize is there are proper procedures students must go through in order to make appoint-

ments with certain individuals. There is nothing wrong with this process, but it takes time and patience.

This is not the only avenue to take when you desire to be heard. The fact that you are reading this article is evidence of a student's voice being heard.

I hope you do not think that you are the only person reading this paper. This paper is read by students, faculty, staff and administration.

This paper serves as one of the loudest voices on campus and it belongs to the students. In no form or fashion am I trying to recruit staff writers for The Panther.

I am making you aware of an opportunity to express your opinions through letters to the editor which are of great value to you.

The Panther, the faculty and administration. We take your opinions very seriously. If you have a problem with an issue on campus, write us.

If you have a problem with something that you have read in The Panther, don't stop us on campus to complain, write us.

How can we fix it if we do not know it is broken? Keep in mind when people are talking about nothing, it matters not how loud you are, you will not be heard; but, letters that are of content will be heard.

Letters to the editor do not have to be of a negative nature. These letters can be compliments to a writer, faculty/staff member or anyone.

Essentially, this is an opportunity for you to let your voice be heard. This is a no lose situation. If you have a problem then The Panther will respond, and if you have a compliment then that will uplift the person whom you are complimenting.

This opportunity is not to be taken for granted. In most cases, verbal complaints mean nothing.

In today's society, people will not hear what you have to say unless it is in print. So quit jaw jacking in your rooms about things everyone could benefit from and write us.

Improving teacher preparation in Texas: A&M system leads the way

By Dr. Bill Reaves
The Texas A&M University System

Teacher education is gaining new attention as a venue for educational reform. There is growing consensus among statewide policy makers that teacher education is one of the last major elements that must be reformed and aligned in order to achieve optimum performance in the state's kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) education system.

As a major supplier of Texas school teachers, as well as a major customer of the state's K-12 system, The Texas A&M University Sys-

tem has a lot riding on this teacher education reform movement.

Enhancement of teacher education is one of the major objectives of the A&M System's newly formed Partnership for Texas Public Schools. In coming months, the partnership will be conducting its own investigations into the area of educator preparation through three interrelated initiatives.

First, the Partnership's Council of School Executives is organizing a special working committee to study teacher education issues. The council brings together the presidents, pro-

vests and deans of education of all A&M System universities, along with superintendents, senior agency officials and professional organizational executives. This group will offer an important leadership perspective on teacher preparation issues.

A generous grant recently awarded by the Sid W. Richardson Foundation will afford the partnership two additional avenues for the study of teacher education.

Richardson Fellows for School-University Collaboration will be designated on each A&M System campus. These faculty fellowships will

encourage greater research and development related to collaborative educator preparation issues. The cadre of Richardson fellows will engage in a systematic assessment of educator preparation programs within the university system.

The Richardson grant also supports the study of educator preparation issues by going directly to the source—classroom teachers. The grant will fund the first Texas Teacher Forum. This forum will bring A&M System leaders together with 42 Texas "Teachers of the Year" to hear their insights and suggestions

for improving the state's educator preparation programs.

These initiatives position the A&M System at the forefront of the state's important dialogue on the preparation of Texas teachers. Achieving excellence in teacher education is of paramount importance to everyone in the A&M System, and ultimately to the state at large.

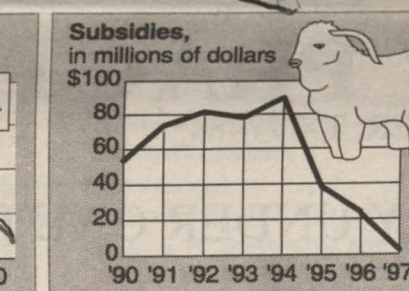
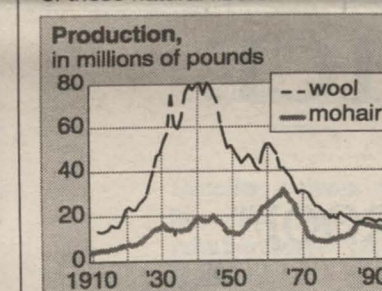
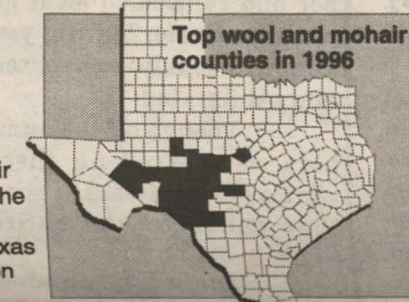
Taken together, we believe that the information gathered from these working groups will enable the A&M System to continue as a leading provider of teachers for Texas schools.

Bill Reaves is Assistant Vice Chancellor for Public Education.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Wool and mohair a Texas tradition

Texas farmers and ranchers have been raising sheep for wool and Angora goats for mohair since the early 1900s. Although the federal government phased out subsidies to growers in 1995, Texas still leads in the U.S. in production of these natural fibers.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Texas Agriculture Statistics Service.

Houston to host Black journalist conference

By Carlos C. Hopkins
Copy Editor

The 1998 National Association of Black Journalists Region VII Conference will be held March 19-22 at the Red Lion Inn Hotel in Houston, TX. This year's theme is "Media In The New Millennium," and will be hosted by The Houston Association of Black Journalists (HABJ).

Members of the HABJ are welcoming professional student members from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, and students of the Prairie View A&M University NABJ chapter, one of the most active chapters in Texas, will be attending the regional conference.

"The Region VII Conference will be an exciting opportunity to build friendship, socially and professionally, that can last well into the future," said Vice President of Prairie View's NABJ chapter, Bridgett McGowen.

Prairie View's Communications department professor Carol Means has been working with Jim Newkirk of the Houston Chronicle to invite professionals from the Mass Communication industry.

"The Region VII Conference should be very beneficial to students in the field of communications," said professor Means. "This will also allow networking among students looking for internships and future employment."

Some of the workshops will be: Tips and Tricks for Finding Your First Job, News vs. Tabloids..., Handcuffed Reporting: Is Crime Coverage Race-Based?... and many more.

"The upcoming regional conference in Houston promises to be a great meeting that you dare not miss," said Dorris Ellis, president of HABJ, in a recent NABJ brochure. "We plan to roll out the red

See **NABJ** on page 6

IN THAT NEVER ENDING QUEST TO BEAT THOSE INFAMOUS, AND SEEMINGLY ENDLESS PRAIRIE VIEW LINES... LET'S TAKE A SECOND TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS AT....



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Editorial Policy

The Panther is a publication supported through advertising and student activity 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.

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

NHSC clinicians in his community work hard to be sure he never will.

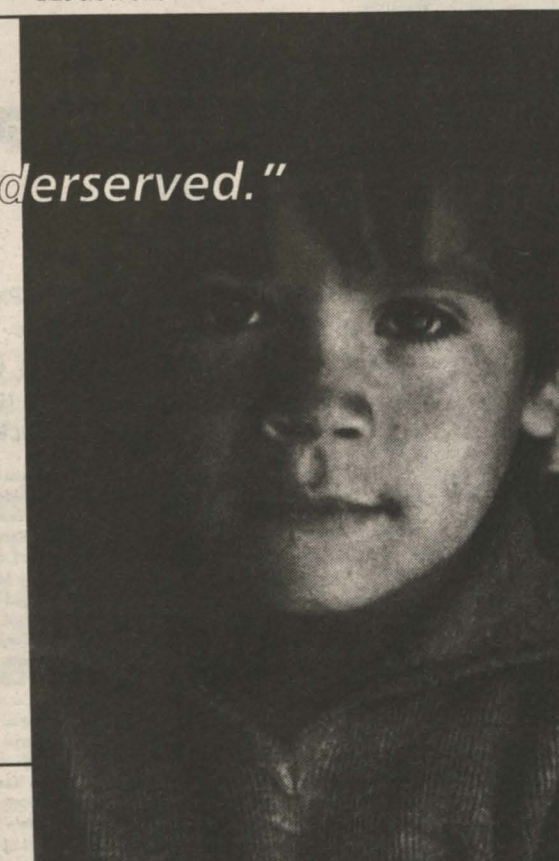
Like Mario, millions of Americans live in communities without access to adequate health care. If you are considering a career in health care and would like to help a community like Mario's, the NHSC has competitive scholarships that can help you reach your goal.

For information about this and other NHSC opportunities, call us at **1-800-221-9393**.
<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.



The Brothers and Sisters of Rho Chi Psi

Thanks those who attended the Soldier Rag Party '98 !!!

Proceeds went to our Marcus C. Haynes Scholarship

We would also like to extend an apology for the untimely inconvenience and delay.

If you missed the last one, don't worry, we will be having more phat Purple Apple Productions and informative seminars!!!

Look for the Purple and Black!!

CAMPUS NEWS

'Operation Jump Start' plans to boost athletics

Prairie View, TX

As Prairie View A&M University continues its mission to restore the university to its esteemed position in the athletic arena, success will depend directly on Prairie View alumni, students and employees.

"Operation Jump Start" is an initiative whose aim is to garner support to strengthen the future of the athletic program at Prairie View. The mission of the university's athletic department is to become totally self-supporting through fund raising because the state of Texas does not appropriate funding for athletics and limits the amount of student services fees that can be used for sports.

Additionally, Prairie View's ability to remain in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) and the NCAA (Division I-AA/Division I) will be based on financial support.

Several projects will be implemented to "jump start" the athletic program: awarding maximum scholarships, building a football stadium, increasing the operating budget, removing coaches from classrooms and making equitable salary adjustments, and creating scholarship endowments.

The athletic department would like to raise \$3 million each year so that all of Prairie View athletic programs will be first-rate.

If there are any questions regarding "Operation Jump Start," call the Prairie View athletic department at (409) 857-2127/2236.

By John Scott
News Editor

Review

Classic Dance Ensemble brought powerful response

By John Scott
News Editor

Inspirational, stupendous, uplifting - just a few of the words that barely describe the privilege of witnessing Prairie View A&M's Classic Dance Ensemble's Wednesday night presentation of "Music, Peace, and Harmony."

The show was a collage of music, poetry, and dance that celebrated the black experience at its very core.

It grabbed the audience from the opening number and refused to let it go until its finale, leaving you simultaneously exhausted and exhilarated.

Though all the numbers were excellent, there were a few that were so good they enhanced the entire show.

One such number

was the dance solo entitled "Kissing You" performed by Monique Rice. Rice's performance was a slow and difficult dance consisting of moves that took not only skill but conditioning which she executed flawlessly, creating poetry in motion.

Another solo performance that definitely needs to be mentioned is Tonya Silmon's "Soon I Will Be Done". The best word to describe this interpretation is kinetic. Silmon exhibited excellent execution of each move with such grace and force that it could be felt in the audience.

These solos combined with others such as Kimla Ferguson's in the number "Can You Dance To My Beat" and Toranna Jackson's entitled "Reminiscence" all helped augment a show that can be described as nothing less than a feast for the eyes and ears.

CAMPUS NEWS

What's Happening.....

Saturday, Feb. 21

5:30 p.m. PVU w-basketball vs. Alcorn State
7:30 p.m. PVU m-basketball vs. Alcorn State

Sunday, Feb. 22

Delta Sigma Theta's Founder's Day

Monday, Feb. 23

International Student Organization Week
5:30 p.m. Southern vs. PVU w-basketball

7:30 p.m. Southern vs. PVU m-basketball

Tuesday, Feb. 24

7 p.m. ECI-Seminar

ZPB-Seminar

Wednesday, Feb. 25

1 p.m. PVU Softball vs. Sam Houston @ SH

7 p.m. AKA Personal Money Management

7 p.m. CAB Movie Night

KKP Black History Program

PBS Seminars

Thursday, Feb. 26

7 p.m. AKA The History of Prairie View

ALO Campus Crusade

KAP Seminar

MOB Seminar

Friday, Feb. 27

7 p.m. ALO Campus Crusade

8:30 p.m. CAB Midnight Bowl

Saturday, Feb. 28

5:30 p.m. PVU w-basketball vs TSU @ TSU

7:30 p.m. PVU m-basketball vs TSU @ TSU

1 p.m. S. Western Univ. vs. PVU Softball

9 p.m. CAB Club Pee's & Vee'

Sunday, Mar. 1

2:00 p.m. Concordie vs. PVU Softball

Monday, Mar. 2

7:00 p.m. DST- Midterm Tutorials

Peace Corp Activity

ALO-Money Management

In Brief

College of Nursing co-host Black History Conference

PVAMU College of Nursing will co-host a Black History Conference entitled "Reflection On Minority Health Issues: Past, Present and Future," Feb. 27, at the Holiday Inn-Medical Center, Houston, TX.

Topics will include violence impact on urban communities, health care for minority populations, school based health, substance abuse, and AIDS in the black community. Politicians will participate in discussions.

Who ya rootin' for?.. "P-V-U"

Cheerleading tryouts are coming soon; an informational seminar will be on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Drew Hall study room. Cheerleaders must have a 2.5 GPA, and be able to tumble and perform collegiate jumps.

Mascots are required to have a 2.5 GPA, and are asked to be school spirited, creative and humorous. Applications are available in the Office of Student Activities, Rm 116 MSC, or Rm 218 W.R. Banks.

Dallas Black Dance celebrates heritage

By Samantha R. Thomas
Panther Staff

Prairie View A&M University was graced by the presence of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) Tuesday, Feb. 17 in Hobart Taylor Recital Hall.

The DBDT, presented by the Office of Multicultural Services, displayed dance pieces in celebration of black

history month. With company members of varying ethnic origins and races, the group danced with full power and portrayed the lifestyles and struggles reflected in the African-American community.

The opening work, "Landforms", with solo by Houston native Bernard Jackson, was a contemporary modern piece that was followed by "Flack", a piece that depicted

the life on the other side of the tracks with music by Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway which intensified and narrated the choreography.

"Homage To The Source: Africa" was the finale that led the audience to handclaps and cries of African salute as the authentic drum

See Dance on page 6

WALLER FAMILY PRACTICE

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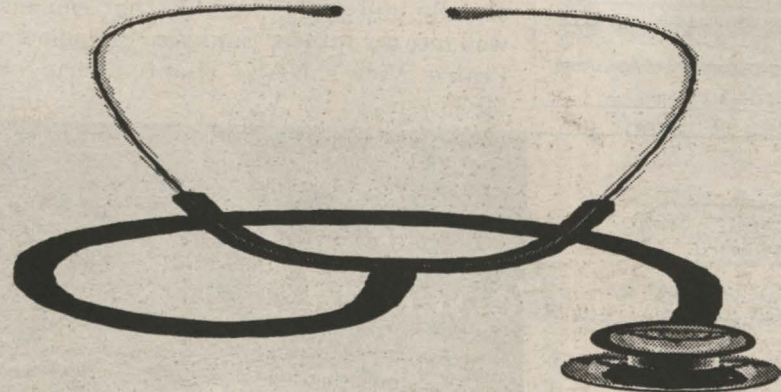
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CAMPUS NEWS

Bush from page 2
graduation that has done something notable for you? Jesse Jackson, Maya Angelou, Louis Farrakhan, Maxine Waters, Susan B. Taylor, Al Sharpton, Angela Davis, Colin Powell, or Mayor Lee Brown? What personal achievements have you accomplished or goals have you set as a result of being inspired by any one of these men and women?

Who again, I ask you, can come to speak at your graduation that has done something for you? Martin Luther King, Jr. is dead.

NABJ from page 3

carpet to you with informative workshops, speakers and warm hospitality."

Student early-bird registration fees are \$50, and \$75 for professionals. Any registration after March 1 and before March 16 will be \$60 for students and \$100 for professionals. On-site registration will be \$75 for students and \$125 for professionals.

Any Prairie View student seeking information about the Region VII Conference, call Carol Means at (409) 857-2229.

For rates and reservations at the Red Lion Inn Hotel, Houston, TX call (713) 961-3000, and for conference information call (713) 524-4474, NABJ attendants will receive special group rates.

Dance from page 4

beats roared over the auditorium.

Allen Gartrell, DBDT dancer and rehearsal director, originally from Atlanta, GA, is in his first season with the group. He said the company looked forward to coming to PVAMU and he felt good about the performance given.

Dr. Ann Williams, founder and artistic director of DBDT, also a PVAMU alumna, started the ensemble with the mission of providing opportunities to minorities seeking dance as a profession.

Now in its 21st year of existence, DBDT has grown from serving the Dallas com-

munity to participating in national and international events including community outreach programs for senior citizens and educational initiatives for students. The group is also the oldest continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas.

The company will be performing in Killeen, TX today and will host a performance next week at Texas Southern University in Houston, TX.

Pageant from page 1

The three ladies will receive scholarships, and Mitchell and Joseph later face the state competition in San Antonio on February 28.

The winner of that pageant will go on to the regional competition in Oklahoma on March 27.

Mitchell, commenting on the most memorable lesson learned through this experience, said "How to work well under pressure and how to mix school and pleasure."

Panther Classified Ads

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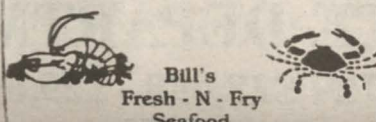
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Miscellaneous



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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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BLACK HISTORY

First Black newspaper owner talks about life and liberty in new autobiography

By Tiara M. Ellis
Editor-in-Chief

With the May commencement ceremony approaching, a decision must be made by potential graduates about where to live, and whether to start a business or join "Corporate America."

Many graduates may decide to follow in the footsteps of Russell Simmons, the owner of Def Jam; Berry Gordy, founder of Motown Records; or Robert C. Maynard, the first Black man to own a major metropolitan newspaper.

Maynard's life achievement's were a blue print of accomplishments through family support and open-minded experiences.

He and his family bought *The Oakland Tribune* through a management-levered buyout. This business deal made them the first family to buy a newspaper from a newspaper chain.

Although he played various roles for the newspaper, Maynard's first love was writing according to his daughter Dori Maynard. In the novel, "Letters to My Children," Dori reflects on her father's accomplishments through the collections of his bi-weekly column.

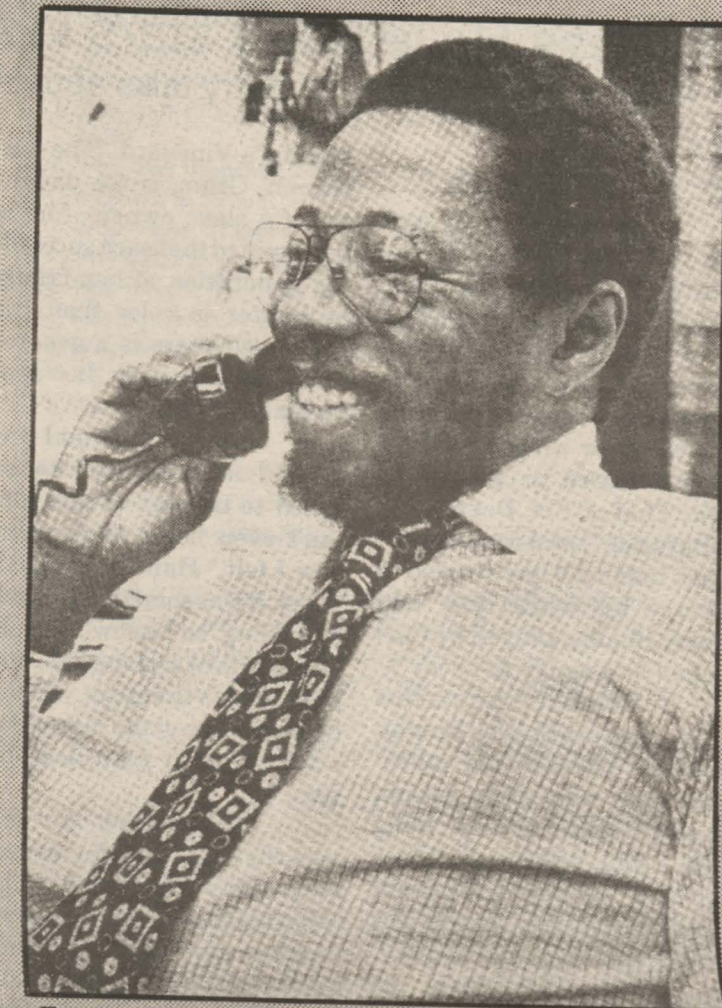
In his column, Maynard used the experiences of his life to portray various messages of support, love and always education.

His death in 1993, due to prostate cancer, ended an era at *The Oakland Tribune*. As editor, publisher and president of *The Oakland Tribune*, Maynard influenced the daily output of the newspaper.

"When I was tired of missing my dad, I dreaded facing the mountain of columns, letters, essays and journals he left behind. Then I could see him, wagging his finger at me. 'You'll never get anywhere if you let your emotions stop you from completing your task. I thought I taught you better than that,'" reflected Dori of her father in the collaborative novel she and her father worked on before his death.

Although the appearance and location of Maynard's former newspaper have changed, his influence remains intact.

Today, his picture still hangs in the new offices of *The Oakland Tribune* in reverence of his memory.



Entrepreneur Robert C. Maynard was the first Black to own a major metropolitan newspaper

Proud Lady Awareness Month encourages Black consumers to recycle their dollars

By SaKinna Thomas
Panther Staff

The American Health and Beauty Aids Institute (AHBAI) has declared February "Proud Lady Awareness Month" to encourage African-American consumers to recycle their dollars within the Black community by purchasing products manufactured by Black-owned companies and supporting Black-owned businesses.

All AHBAI member companies are Black-owned and operated and carry "The Proud Lady" symbol on the back of all AHBAI member products, printed materials, and packaging

and promotional materials. "The Proud Lady" is a symbol of pride, hope, and dignity and a promoter of economic growth in the Black community.

"When a consumer or beauty professional purchases a product with "The Proud Lady" symbol, they will know they are purchasing a product from a Black-owned business which re-invests in the community," said Gerri Duncan, AHBAI Executive



Director.

Since founding AHBAI 16 years ago, its members have promoted

economic growth by pooling resources and recycling millions of dollars into the Black community by employing more than 3,000 people; and through contributions to organizations such as the United Negro

College Fund, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Urban League, PUSH, and the development of the Fred Luster, Sr. Scholarship Fund which provides thou-

sands of dollars in scholarships to cosmetologists and high school students across the country.

According to Duncan, Black consumers and cosmetologists alike have an important responsibility to keep the industry strong by making crucial product decisions and choosing products that bear "The Proud Lady" symbol is one of them. Black consumers only have to look for the symbol.

Many Black-owned products carry "The Proud Lady" symbol: Isoplus (J.M. Products, Inc.); Soft & Beautiful and Just For Me (Pro-line Corporation); African Royale (Bronner Bros); Dudley Q+ (Dudley Products, Inc.); Shennique & Summit Pre-Con Gel (Summit Laboratories), Luster's Pink Oil Moisturizers (Luster Products, Inc.); Optimum Care (Soft Sheen Products, Inc.) and many others.

Did You Know...????

Prairie View A&M University is older than Texas A&M University, in fact, it's the 2nd oldest institution in the state of Texas?(F.Y.I.:Wiley College is the oldest, est. 1873.)

This institution's original name was Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth?

Egyptian libraries were said to have housed articles on every subject related to man and nature?

Prairie View A&M University's women were the 1st in history to claim a national title in track and field competition?



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ENTERTAINMENT

Actress Halle Berry stars in ABC mini-movie *The Wedding*

Model and actress Halle Berry talks about her role as Shelby Coles in new TV drama

By Sally Stone
Special to The Panther

Martha's Vineyard. The matriarch, Gram, is the daughter of a slave owner. She is determined that each succeeding generation of her family be lighter in color than the last, until there is a generation that no longer "betrays" its black ancestry.

"To tell you that I was excited and honored to be asked to be part of this film can't even begin to describe how I felt," Halle Berry said. "First, it was something Oprah was doing, so I knew it would be important and special. And then there's the story, which I believe is one of the most powerful I've ever seen done on film."

Asked what she felt was the most striking aspect of the story, Berry said, "The way this family wants to manipulate the future. We all want a better life for our children and their children. But what this family wants is, somehow, to blot out the black part of their heritage by creating a family that will look absolutely white."

Is that because they feel white people have more



Actress Halle Berry will star in ABC's "The Wedding" as Shelby Coles

access to the American dream?

"I think it's more than that. After all, these are wealthy people. They're middle class. But they're uncomfortable with the fact that they're identifiably black. They see their own blackness as something to be ashamed of, and they see the only way out of that so-called problem is to create a family that is ultimately white. As a matter of fact, in the story, one of the daughters married a man they didn't approve of because they felt he was too dark and they put pressure on her to end the marriage."

That would make them sound like racists.

"They are, in that they have bought into the prejudiced assumptions about black people being inferior to white people. And, by the way," Berry said, "this sense that having lighter skin is better than being darker, also reflects the black experience during slavery when your skin color often was the difference in how you might be treated. The lighter-skinned slave worked in the house, and was treated better than the darker-skinned slave who worked in the fields and lived under much harsher conditions."

Halle, whose father is African-American and whose mother is white, says that she recalls as a child wanting to have blonde hair and blue

eyes.

"But that wasn't because I thought a person with blonde hair and blue eyes was somehow better than anyone else. It was because my mother is blonde with blue eyes, and I love my mother. I think every child who loves their parents wants to be as much like them as possible. As I grew older, I continued to find ways to identify with my mother, but for reasons that have little, if anything, to do with how she looks, but for who she is as a person."

Finally, Halle Berry, said that if the film has one message that would resonate with people regardless of who they are and where they come from, "It's that we realize that sometimes we act not out of conviction, but because of peer pressure. It's the classic 'keeping up with the Joneses.' People want to be accepted by their community, and the most expedient, if not always the best way, to do that is to live up to what the community - black or white - expects of them. It's a matter of feeling connected."

In other words, fit in or be left out?

"Exactly," Berry said. "And it often takes a great deal of strength and courage to risk being isolated from the group by daring to take a stand and doing what is right."

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PICK-A-FLICK

The first persons to figure out the names of the following movies will win a video. One video per person. Three videos for each movie will be given away. Claim your prize by giving us the correct answer and bringing this issue of the paper to The Panther in the bottom of the MSC, Rm 114.

T _ E _ P R _ _ _ E C _ _ I I

Hint: The leading actor plays an angel named Gabriel.

B _ _ S S _ _ _ O _ _

Hint: The first word in the name of the film is a type of musical band.

T _ _ P T R _ _ _ S _ M _ _ N

Hint: The last word in the name of the movie is a star of the night.

Here are the winners of last issues Pick-a-Flick:

- Royal Colins, soph., Computer Engineer
- Daniel Smith, senior, Biology
- Davion Smith, senior, Marketing
- Michael Wesley, junior, Electrical Engineer

Phat Dime

The Panther's current top ten in no particular order

- They Don't Know
- Jon B.
- Deja Vu
- Lord Tariq & Peter Gunz
- If You Think I'm Jiggy
- The LOX
- Man Right 'Chea
- Mystikal
- What You Want
- Mase w/ Total
- It's Yourz
- Wu-Tang Clan
- Rose is Still a Rose
- Aretha Franklin
- Rain
- SWV
- Ye Yo
- Erykah Badu
- Nice & Slow
- Usher

Congratulations to our Panther Track Team, the new 1998 SWAC Indoor Track Champions

ENTERTAINMENT

Winans Celebrates New Life with solo debut

BEBE WINANS



Legendary gospel artist BeBe Winans

By Nakita Wanza
Atlantic Records Correspondent

"In Harms Way", "Love is the Reason" and "This Song" are just a few songs off contemporary gospel singer BeBe Winans' new self-titled solo album.

Winans has won over music lovers all over the world with his soulful melodic vocals, first heard with partner and sibling CeCe Winans. Many know this

Grammy-award winning duo from hits like "It's O.K.," "Heaven," "Celebrate New Life," and "Addictive Love." But, now it's all about BeBe!

"CeCe and I have had a wonderful journey together, but solo projects are something we each wanted to do since an early age," said BeBe.

Coming from a musically-talented family, BeBe has written and produced for numerous artists such as Gladys Knight, Bobby Brown

and Stephanie Mills.

This new album is a reflection of what he's been through and where he's going. On this CD, he has collaborated with some of the best artists in the music industry like Luther Vandross, Eric Clapton, Debraoh Cox, and sister Debbie Winans.

The music video for the first single of the album, "In Harm's Way," was directed by Academy-award winning actor Denzel Washington and has been burning up the contemporary gospel charts. But charts are not what BeBe is worried about.

"I've always said that charts are nice, but charts are not what I sing for. Sure they're important, but I write songs because of what's true and meaningful to me," said BeBe.

Fans of BeBe are sure to get a dose of what's true and meaningful to him as he shares his life with the world on this soul-stirring album.

20 Questions

1. Didn't the President's assembly seem like deja vu?
2. Speaking of "Deja Vu", aren't you loving Lord Tariq & Peter Gunz's Dallas/Houston version of their song?
3. Why do the flagpoles still say PVAMU was established in 1878?
4. What ever happened to the new Alumni Hall that was supposed to be built?
5. Why is Eric Gaither so irate (You know, the tall, dark guy who walks around with his opinions taped to his chest)?
6. Why wouldn't anybody save me from the play "I'm Saved"?
7. Did anyone enjoy the ENGINEER, (excuse me) career fair?
8. Why haven't we had a ceremony for our SWAC champion track team?
9. So, did we have an assembly because the President read the last 20 questions?
10. Now that Valentine's Day is over, what will po' Miss Bettye and her flowers do?
11. Since when did the MSC gameroom become an accredited course?
12. Why is it that the Omegas had their suspension lifted on Wednesday, and their rush on Thursday?
13. Dang! Is everybody having a line this semester?
14. Why is there a flier in the MSC that says "No More Fliers in the MSC"?
15. Is it just me or does everybody live for "Catfish Friday" in The Underground?
16. Who is the idiot who asked the AKAs "Does AKA stand for Any Kappa Anytime"?
17. Why is Phase I of the Village now the Section 8 of public housing?
18. Why is everybody crunk on the long-awaited Master P concert?
19. Is there any limit to No Limit?
20. What do you think?

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For more information, contact:
Black College Radio Organization
P.O. Box 3191
Atlanta, GA 30302

(Ad published as an educational service by this newspaper)

Elect GLENN TAYLOR Waller County Judge

"Best Qualified For The Job"

Local attorney Glenn Taylor has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Waller County Judge in the March 10 Primary Election. Taylor grew up in Waller County, attending Hempstead and Waller schools. He graduated from Prairie View A&M University and after receiving his law degree from Texas Southern University, opened his present law practice in Hempstead.

Taylor says, "My home is Waller County and I have always had a desire to see the county growth directed in a way that will benefit the families already living here and create a healthy, stable environment for the new businesses and families that want to make Waller County their home. Waller County is growing rapidly, and it is important that the Commissioners Court work closely with all of the city governments within the county to build better cities for the rural areas to enjoy. In an effort to facilitate growth, I am dedicated to providing leadership and representing Waller County to support industry in our area and provide services to our citizens, while allocating a fair and equitable distribution of county funds to all areas of Waller County. I will listen to what the people of our area want for Waller County and will work to bring all areas together. I pledge to be a county judge for everyone in Waller County. I will dedicate my legal experience to representing the citizens and will foster their involvement in the affairs of our county in an effort to provide a long-range plan for a community that others will look to as an example of pride."

"Ten Commandments of Good Government"

1. Listen to City Council Representatives of Katy, Brookshire, Patison, Fine Island, Prairie View, Waller and Hempstead, and work faithfully to support their respective Economic Development Delegates in order to enhance Waller County's ability to lure industry in a way that will benefit the families and businesses already living here.
6. Listen to ~~everybody~~ with positive ideas on ways to improve our local governments' preparation for rapid growth and encourage and respect their opinions.
2. Listen to the School Boards of Education of all of our school districts and work faithfully to create a general alliance between the taxpayers, students and their teachers in order to discover new ways to address issues of juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, insanity, substance abuse, violence and student behavior in our schools without continuing to balance the whole burden on the local property owner.
7. Listen to and work faithfully with the Commissioners that sit on the Court as representatives of the people and dedicate my legal experience to assisting them in research of the law to assure that the best decisions are made regarding the future of ALL of Waller County.
3. Listen to the Emergency Medical Services and Fire Fighters in ALL of Waller County and work faithfully to establish new ways that our county as a whole can support our volunteers' efforts to improve the protection of our lives and property.
8. Listen to and work faithfully with the leaders of our Waller County Churches to develop new ways to involve our churches in the leadership of Waller County's growth.
4. Listen to law enforcement and the people they serve to improve citizen involvement in the business of protecting the freedoms of the public and the police.
9. Listen to the Farmers and Ranchers to assure and enhance the protection of ag. culture exemptions and the preservation of good farm and ranch land in Waller County.
5. Listen to ALL departments of Waller County Government and work efficiently to fund them for improving services in ALL of Waller County.
10. Listen to new industry that wants to make Waller County their home to determine the quality of support they can give to our communities and businesses presently surviving here.

For the first time in Waller County history, Democrats and Republicans will vote at the same poll. Please vote in the Democratic Primary to assure that your voices are heard in the local Democratic races. Early voting begins February 23, and lasts through March 6 at the Elections Office on 5th Street in Hempstead and the Tax Office in Brookshire. If you are disabled, 65 years of age or older or need transportation, please call (409) 826-3394 so that I may help you enjoy your right to vote.

Political Advertising paid for by Glenn Taylor Campaign Fund, 846 New Orleans Street, Sharon Burpin, Treasurer

SPORTS NEWS

Track, bowling top SWAC sports competitions

By Brandee L. Rogers Panther Staff 1998 Indoor Men's SWAC Champions

The Panthers were definitely on the prowl after stomping out Southern University by 15 points and finishing first overall in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Indoor Track Championships which was held in Baton Rouge, LA this past weekend.

"The thing that carried us over from last year is the help we got from the field.... We've been missing in the short races, but we were well represented this time," said head coach Hoover Wright.

The final tabulated results showed that in the men's division, the Panthers scored an overall 114.5 points, closing out their victory over defending champions of Southern University by 15.5 points.

See Track on page 11

By Tiara M. Ellis Editor-in-Chief

Amidst cheers and congratulatory tears, Prairie View A&M University's (PVAMU) first women's bowling team prepared to take their trophy at Winfern Bowling Alley in playoff competition against Texas Southern University (TSU) in Houston last Wednesday.

Ten pins separated PVAMU from TSU in the playoff game. As the team and single scores were added up

PVAMU head Coach Alicia Peete forced her nervous hands to slowly re-calculate the final totals.

In team competition, PVAMU scored 1893 points but was outnumbered by TSU with a score of 2011. The roles were reversed in singles competition with PVAMU posting a score of 2011 and TSU having 1883 points. Once these two scores were added together, Coach Peete and her team began celebrating with the announcements of awards.

The doubles trophy was awarded to Senior Tamika Prentiss and junior Natasha Gransberry for being the top two scorers.

This win sent them on their way to the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) competition, hosted by Alcorn State University on Feb. 20 in Vicksburg, MS.

"I feel like we will come back home with a win," said junior FaLishia Franklin who is playing a college sport for the first time as are the

See Bowling on page 11

Softball off to 4-0 start

By LaTasha Wiggins Panther Staff

They ended their first season last year 5-45, but this year Prairie View A&M's softball team plans to stay focused and improve on that record. They've already made a come back with hard work and dedication, beating Texas Southern University in their Feb. 6 season opener.

According to student assistant Coach Royal Hammond, "Coach A.D. James has done a wonderful job with recruiting this year's team."

As a result, both coaches and players feel confident about having a winning season.

See Softball on page 11

Baseball maintaining 'dedication'

By LaTasha Wiggins Panther Staff

The fighting Panthers baseball team started a winning season, beating Houston-Tillotson and hitting more runs in that game than in any all last season.

Coach Tankersley said, "We're looking for a good year and a strong team."

Pitcher Reginald Thompson said, "The team is playing with a lot more of

fort." On Feb. 19 the Panthers showed that effort when they played Houston Tillotson a second time in a double-header.

They lost the first game 3-2 but won the second game 10-5.

They lost to Sam Houston and University Texas San Antonio (UTSA) earlier in the week.

Thompson and second baseman Chris Williams are both seniors and the two young men are seeking a professional career in the baseball industry.

According to coach Tankersley, Prairie View's baseball team has hard-work-

ing players with much dedication, and they deserve to win SWAC this year.

In the meantime, the Panthers are getting ready for Paul Quinn and UT SA again.

"These two teams will get us ready for the conference," said coach Tankersley. Southern, their rival school, is the one of the strongest teams the Panthers will play this year.

"Last year was a hard season, but this year we have a new team that will help us win," said pitcher Brandon McNair.

"This is just the beginning, there is still more to come," said outfielder Darnell Wiltz.

COMIC RELIEF

Track from page 10

The men's division took charge of the top three places in many events, with Dakari Lenear coming in first in the 800-meter race.

Many of the track team members qualified for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) competition. They included Ron Nelson, who finished second in the high jump competition, Derrick Lewis who placed second in shot put, and Martin Hargrove who finished third in the long jump.

"Being able to qualify for the NCAA has been a long time goal. It feels good repre-

senting my school in a meet that is as competitive as SWAC," Nelson said.

Due to their determination, hardwork and long practice hours, Prairie View A&M men's track team will be receiving SWAC championship rings for placing first in the outdoor meet.

Though much attention was given to the men's track team, the women fared pretty well, coming in fifth place with 43 points.

Tia Talley won first place in the 200-meter race. Stephanie Redden placed second in the 200 and 400 meter competitions. Laura Bailey

placed fourth in the triple jump. The women's mile relay team won second with Redden as the anchor leg. Southern University took the women's indoor track title with 145.5 points scored.

On March 7, the track team will compete in the Sam Houston State University outdoor track meet in Huntsville, TX.

Softball from page 10

Last year's record does not reflect the ability of this year's team or their mindset. "Many people didn't expect us to win, but we did," said center fielder LaTresha Williams.

Hammond said, "...every game is a big game...and the girls plan to make it to SWAC and NCAA this year."

To accomplish this goal, it will take determination and Hammond added that returning starters LaTresha Williams and Beth McCombs show good leadership which every team needs.

"I was happy to see all the support that came out for the first home game," pitcher Leslie West said.

West added that other members of the softball team would like to

see more. Bowling from page 10 majority of her teammates.

Two teams were selected from the Eastern and Western conferences of SWAC. Representing the East will be Alcorn and Mississippi Valley State University. The West will be represented by PVAMU and Grambling State University.

"I think we are going to do very well. Everyone is in the right mind-set to bring home a SWAC championship. The men's track team has got everyone fighting for a championship," said Gransberry.

MAGIC MAZE

FIRST NAMES IN WORDS

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

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

- Atomic Banner Carolad Carolina
Cricket Customary Dough Katydid
Mariachi Path Playbill Segregate
Tarpauln Universality Uphill



HOCUS-FOCUS



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.
Differences: 1. Hair is missing; 2. Chair is missing; 3. Curt stops are missing; 4. The is moved; 5. Badge is moved; 6. Arm is moved.

MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT



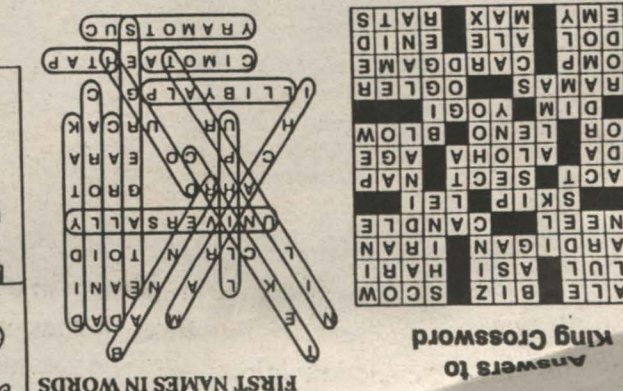
P.V.'s Own "Jus' Chillin'": By QUINCY HIGGINS



KING CROSSWORD

Grid for King Crossword with numbers 1-59 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS 1 "One life to lose" man
5 Occupation, briefly
8 Rowboat or punt
12 Tishri Preceder
13 "— was saying..."
14 Mata —
15 Sweater type
17 OPEC member
18 Genuflect
19 Wicked thing?
21 Pass over
24 Mainlander's memento
25 Datum
28 Denomination
30 Entry on baby's agenda
33 Rhoda's mom
34 "Hi," to Ho
35 Ripen
36 Neither's mate
37 Letterman's rival
38 Play trumpet
39 Ill-lit
41 Boo-Boo's buddy
43 O'Neill output
46 Lecherous sort
50 Cavort
51 It may involve a great deal
54 Pedestal occupant
55 Stout relative
56 Oklahoma city
57 "— Valentine"
58 Nth degree
59 Rodents DOWN
1 "Damn!"
2 Chester — Arthur
3 Tackle-box item
4 Firstborn
5 Gladstone, e.g.
6 "There — tavern..."
7 Galvanizing stuff
8 Polish
9 Law in Boston, e.g.
10 Exam format
11 Dark red color
16 Type
20 Sash.
neighbor
22 Land in the water
23 Showy flower
25 Semi-sawbuck
26 Commotion
27 Ginger's cousin
29 Train noise
31 Past
32 Seat of the church?
34 Mater lead-in
38 More popular
40 Suggest
42 Deity
43 Small amount
44 Depended (on)
45 Coin game
47 Actress Turner
48 Send forth
49 Ohio nine
52 In the style of
53 Roman royal



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THE FINAL WORD

President, 'diabolical elves' cause graduate student to ponder her existence

By Janet Worsham

I was one of those homemakers with no job history. Like many other females in this position, I decided to go back to college (in hopes of eventually offering my children a better future).

I recently graduated from the University of Great Falls in Montana. When I decided to attend Prairie View's graduate school, I felt special. I have an impeccable academic record, and felt I had paid dues to acquire recognition.

However, someone started a new game, or began a different one: "Let's see how we can frustrate the living daylight out of you, because we are caught in a ritualistic dance of paperwork."

First, I was denied a handicap sticker on my van though I have Texas handicap license plates. I walked to the President's office to complain. (Surprisingly), Prairie View's President was residing behind an inaccessible door with a security system even James Bond would boast about.

I asked if his life was

in danger. The President's secretary remarked that no one saw (him) without an appointment. I wondered what had happened to the President's "open door policy?"

Anyway, when I exclaimed it was against the law to discriminate against the handicap, I received prompt attention in getting a handicap sticker for my van.

My next experience at the financial (aid) office was strange. I was past frustrated after persons in room 121 took all the information they could get, excluding my ge-

netic make-up.

Over months, I experienced the effects of what I imagine was a "little diabolical elf" that would input some of my records one day, and then input what I thought I had lost the day before.

It was a vicious cycle of my life history being lost, found, lost, and becoming a dead file. What is a dead file? It is when an institution that runs like a piece of non-collaborative multi-celled organism makes a mistake look like your mistake when it is actually their mistake.

As I sat in the financial aid office from 8am-5pm, I saw students leave for class and return to sign the bottom of the list again. I adjusted to the long hours, and began to ponder my existence. After all, there was enough time to become very in depth about my character defects and philosophical convictions.

In conclusion, I applaud individuals who (have been) extremely helpful.

Janet Worsham began at PVA&MU this Spring. She is pursuing a master's in counseling.



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