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Prairie View A&M University

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The

Panther

February 6, 1998

Vol. 75, No. 4

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

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See what students had to say in The Final Word.



Mixed emotions hover over Bush's arrival



Former President George Bush

By Samantha R. Thomas
Panther Staff

There have been numerous open panel discussions among students and administrators including President Hines, to clear any misunderstandings and discrepancies students have regarding Prairie View's May 1998 commencement.

For the majority of graduating seniors commencement has been the hottest issue, bringing a variety of emotions to surface like never before. Perhaps the uproar is in the rumored ticket-only entry or maybe it is the time change from the traditional 10 a.m. starting time but most agree that the discrepancy is with the deliverer of the commencement address - Former President George Bush.

As the student government President David Walden tried to inform students during a SGA meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 of planned events involving graduation, many students left with feelings of relief and doubt as well.

Walden informed students that graduation spectators will not need a ticket for entrance which was totally opposite of what students originally believed. No one knows who or what started the rumor. Many students expressed joy after hearing that there is no limit to the number of family and friends they could invite.

Ron Jones, Vice President of Student Affairs, said "The only decision that has been made is that George Bush is the speaker and the time."

The commencement time was changed to accommodate Bush's schedule and he also made adjustments to attend. In the past, students have found that packing the dome early in the morning and leaving just in time to beat the Prairie View heat helpful, especially for those who immediately head back home.

Many students feel Bush is not the right person to deliver the commencement address.

"Students cannot directly relate with George Bush as a person," said one Prairie View student on Wednesday, Feb. 4 during a call-in radio talk show on KPVM titled "On The Hill with Frank Jackson."

Some administrators and faculty, however, think Bush's presence will be a step in the right direction for the entire Prairie View family.

"I can understand students' concern, but we have got to build networks and opportunities," said Frank Jackson, Special Assistant to the President for Governmental Affairs.

To many people's surprise, May 1998 will mark Bush's fourth visit to Prairie View. He was actually the commencement speaker for Prairie View's 100th anniversary. Another fact to take into consideration is that Bush was instrumental in establishing the Naval R.O.T.C. program at Prairie View, which was the first of its kind in the country. As far as his contribution to African-American history is concerned, he was also responsible for appointing the first African-American Joint Chief of Staff, Gen. Colin Powell under his administration.

During the 1940s, Bush also helped to raise money for the United Negro College Fund which supports private historically Black colleges and universities. Furthermore, Dr. Hines serves on the board at The George Bush school at Texas A & M University in College Station, TX, our sister school.

No one can say for certain what effect his speech will actually have on the graduating candidates. Perhaps his impact is not as important to the student body as it is to Prairie View A & M University as a whole.

Historical name stays the same

By Patrina A. Bostic
Managing Editor

Despite the reoccurring rumor, the name Prairie View A&M University is part of an amendment to the state Constitution and in no likelihood will be changed to Texas A&M at Prairie View or otherwise.

"It's just a rumor that circulates every year around this time. Changing the name of Prairie View has never been brought up by the legislature. They [legislature] has no interest and no reason to bring it up, plus Prairie View is protected by the Constitution of the state of Texas," said local County Commissioner, Frank D. Jackson who also serves in the President's Office at Prairie View.

The task of amending a Constitution can be a long

and even impossible process.

First, a bill is introduced then it must get a majority vote from the House of Representatives and the Senate before the governor decides whether to approve it.

A bill can be "killed" even before it clears the House of Representatives or the Senate. Because a campaign can be run statewide to demolish a bill, many bills never get past the Capitol.

If a bill clears the Capitol, a general statewide election must be held and the majority of the people in Texas would have to vote to change an amendment.

"Even if a bill for a name change did surface, we would "kill it" even before it cleared the House of Representatives or the Senate," said Jackson. "It would never make it out of the Capitol."

VIEWPOINTS

You 'R' mine forever

Alzo Slade
Panther Staff

Far too many times, we accept things based on their ideals without looking for the essence of what we are accepting. Through research, I have discovered stories about the origin of St. Valentine's Day.

The most repeated tale is that St. Valentine was a Roman who was killed for refusing to denounce Christianity. He died on Feb. 14, and Roman Christians celebrated his gallantry on this day by replacing the feast of Lupercalia, an ancient pagan celebration of sex.

Before his death, St. Valentine wrote a letter to one of his lady friends and signed it "From Your Valentine," thus correlating with the present day term "Valentine".

Let's think about this theory for a minute.

A saint was killed because he chose to die instead of relinquishing his faith and there was a celebration of sex that occurred during the time of his death.

Those who followed in his faith elected to replace this celebration of sex, with a celebration of the saint.

This was 1,729 years ago and look at the story now.

Valentine's Day, as we know it, is commercialization at its best.

The theory about the origin of this day has no bearing upon my life whatsoever. As a matter of fact, this day means nothing once you realize that you should not be living an ancient tale of what has become a tremendous money maker in the month of February.

The contemporary concept of Valentine's Day is to use this day to show affection for your companion in some form or fashion. Where did just one day come from? Why should we use St. Valentine's name when it is us that we should be focusing on?

The end result is a balanced universe consisting of the sun, moon, and the stars.

So my challenge to you is take this day of Feb. 14, make the same effort everyday and move from St. Valentine's Day to "You R Mine Day" to "You R Mine Forever".

When something of importance belongs to you, you will take care of it. There has to be an understanding of the Black Man in relation to the Black Woman.

It is not of our heritage to make the man superior to the woman. We are equal. A Black man is not able to maximize his potential without a Black woman and vice versa.

I believe the Black man represents the sun and the Black woman represents

The Panther Staff
Wishes You A
Happy
Valentine's Day
or
"You 'R' Mine
Forever Day"
(you choose)



Hidden behind a Bush

By John Scott
News Editor

The big issue on the yard these days is whether or not President Bush should speak at the commencement ceremony.

Most feel that first there is nothing he can say to us as black students in America that will inspire us because we can't relate to him. Second, that he shouldn't be given the honor of speaking to us because he did nothing visibly during his twelve years in office that would show him to be, by any means, a champion of minorities.

These points are well taken, but I think a more deep-seated problem exists that we're either ignoring or simply don't see. That problem is the lack of entrepreneurial spirit in the Black and other minority communities.

How does this tie in to the backlash against the former president? Easy. The political decisions made by the administrations with which he was either affiliated or headed were motivated mainly by concern for those to whom allegiance was felt.

Simply put, he looked out for his friends - the ones who paid for him to get into office - big corporations. Which brings me to my point - where are the Black and minority corporations? How many can you name off hand? Two? Three? Now, how many white corporations can you name off hand? I bet a lot more of them than you could of the Black.

This is a sad state of affairs because corporate muscle and money is what is truly needed to get those politicians not only in office, but also to pay attention to the issues that concern us while there. We all know that big business runs government, so why aren't we creating more of our own big businesses? This is not to take away from the thousands of small minority businesses that already exist all over the country. Those companies are still very viable to the fabric of the community, it's just more often than not they lack that pure consolidated economic muscle that huge corporations possess, and politicians need to win elections.

So I ask again, why aren't there more large black corporations? It can't be because we don't have the

See Bush page 6

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Editorial Policy

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REGIONAL/NATIONAL NEWS

NAFEO hosts HBCU job fair

Atlanta, GA

On Tuesday, March 3, 1998, The National Association for Equal Opportunity In Higher Education (NAFEO) and Career Publishing Network, L.L.C. are sponsoring a Region III job fair in New Orleans, LA.

The theme of the event is "Keeping The Doors Open".

Major employers from business, industry, education and government will be interviewing graduate and undergraduate students as well as alumni in all disciplines.

NAFEO is an association comprised of 116 Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs). The Association proposes, through the collective efforts of its membership, to promote the widest possible commitment required to create successful higher education programs for students.

This day-long career event will be attended by thousands of students from NAFEO Region III HBCU member schools from Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Admission is free to job seekers who will also receive a free copy of the NAFEO Job Fair Handbook listing hundreds of companies seeking diversity in hiring from all disciplines.

The handbook will also be available at the Career Service Offices at member schools.

The job fair will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 1998 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, Louisiana. Another NAFEO/Career Publishing Regional Career Fair will be held in Birmingham on April 23.

For directions and additional information call 1-800-711-9849.

Purple marks prohibition on Texas land

Texas Agriculture Extension Service

Purple power moves beyond Prairie View A&M University.

In fact, our purple school color is being used as a warning to stay off someone's property in a new state law.

Judson Fambrough, a lawyer with the Texas Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University said Texas will soon be seeing a lot more of the color purple because Texas has joined several other states in recognizing a purple paint mark as a trespassing warning.

The new law requires landowners to make a vertical purple mark 8 inches long and 1 inch wide, and place it either on a post or a tree. The mark must be 3 to 5 feet off the



Mardi Gras! Galveston 1998 themed "The Big Speakeasy" kicks off on Friday, Feb. 13 and continues through "Fat Tuesday" on Feb. 24.

ground and at a frequency of every 1,000 feet except in timber-cutting areas where it must be placed on every 100 feet.

So far, this purple paint posting practice has caused people problems.

In South Texas, see Purple on page 6

Keeping an eye on Texas

Texas schools enroll foreign students

Thousands of students from around the world attend Texas colleges and universities to obtain bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees. In the 1996-97 academic year, 16,898 foreign students were in Texas schools, with Mexico, China and India sending the most from any foreign country.

Top countries of origin for foreign students in Texas



Foreign students enrolled in Texas colleges and universities, 1996

Univ. of Texas/Austin	3,320	Texas Woman's University	184
Texas A&M University	2,605	Texas A&M/Commerce	147
University of Houston	2,021	Texas A&M International Univ.	132
Univ. of Texas/El Paso	1,521	Univ. of Texas/Pan American	119
Univ. of Texas/Arlington	1,235	West Texas A&M	102
University of North Texas	1,070	Sam Houston State University	83
Texas Tech University	837	Stephen F. Austin State Univ.	60
Univ. of Texas/Dallas	752	Angelo State University	56
Univ. of Texas/San Antonio	337	Univ. of Texas/Tyler	40
Univ. of Houston/Clear Lake	332	Texas A&M/Corpus Christi	35
Texas Southern University	296	Univ. of Texas/Brownsville	30
Univ. of Houston/Downtown	280	Univ. of Houston/Victoria	21
Lamar University	271	Sul Ross State University	17
Texas A&M/Kingsville	269	Sul Ross Rio Grande College	13
Southwest Texas State Univ.	264	Tarleton State University	10
Midwestern State Univ.	235	Texas A&M/Galveston	5
Prairie View A&M	196	Univ. of Texas/Pernian Basin	3

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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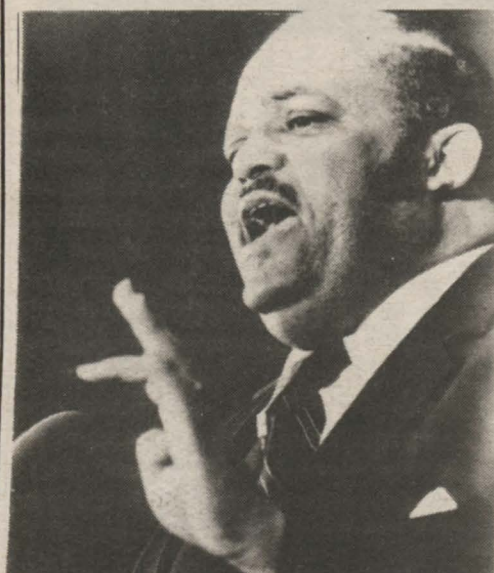
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CAMPUS NEWS

40th annual minister's conference 'best yet'



Dr. E.V. Hill

centrating on this year's theme, "Preparing Today's Leaders for Tomorrow's Ministry."

The conference featured diverse speakers from across the US including Dr. Miles Jerome Jones, Dr. Gregory G. M. Ingram, Bishop Marshall Gilmore, Dr. Ed Montgomery, and Bishop Martin Luther Johnson.

By SaKinna Thomas
Panther Staff

The Johnson-Phillip All Faiths Chapel of Prairie View A&M University celebrated its 40th Annual Ministers' Conference on February 3-4, 1998.

The celebration gathered clergy men and women from throughout the U.S. con-

An important feature of the ministerial conference was the dinner banquet set to raise funds for the Lee C. Phillip Building Endowment which was held on Wednesday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m., at the Sheraton Hotel in Houston.

The late Lee C. Phillip, the first dean of the chapel, was honored with a

special address by Dr. E.V. Hill of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, CA.

Dr. Hill is a nationally known televangelist and a 1955 graduate of Prairie View A&M University.

This years conference was a success with over 300 ministers attending and over \$17,000 in proceeds that will go towards the support of the chapel and scholarships for PVAMU students.

Charles H. Lewter, Jr., current dean of the JPAFC, commented, "I'm elated and pleased about the support and turn-out for the 40th Annual Minister's Conference. This years conference has been the best since I have been here." Dean Lewter looks forward to an even greater success with the 41st Annual Conference.



Nursing hosts guests for Black History

Houston, TX

The College of Nursing of Prairie View A&M University will host Dr. M. Elizabeth Carnegie, D.P.A., F.A.A.N., distinguished professor and scientific writer.

Dr. Carnegie will work with the College of Nursing faculty and students throughout Black History Month.

The distinguished nursing professor will occupy the Houston Endowment Minority Health and Research chair which was established in 1992 to help celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the College of Nursing.

The goals of the chair are to increase the number of qualified faculty conducting research while maintaining a leadership role in educating minority students and professional nurses in the greater Houston area; to move the College of Nursing into a leadership role in providing health care to the minority community; and to contribute to the reduction of health disparities for citizens of Texas.

Dr. Dollie Brathwaite, Dean of the College of Nursing said, "The College of Nursing administrators, faculty, and students are privileged to have an internationally renowned nurse leader here to share her writing expertise, wisdom, and knowledge of nursing and the historical path of Blacks in nursing."

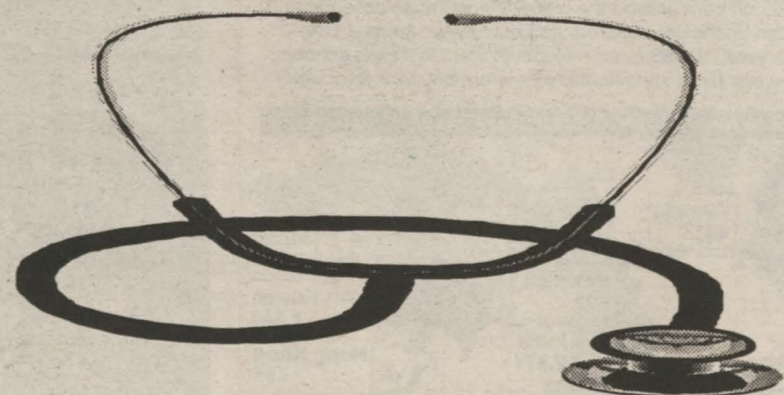
She is the author of many publications including books which document the many achievements of African-American nurses and the awakening interest in historical evolution of black nurses.

Marjorie N. Johnson, Ph.D., R.N., Dean and Professor of the School of Nursing and Allied Health at Tuskegee University is also serving as a consultant to the Prairie View A&M University College of Nursing from Jan. 26-March 6, 1998.

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50. Home Life
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52. Humana Health Care Plans
53. IBS
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58. John Hancock
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60. Liberty Mutual
61. Managed Health Care
62. Medicaid
63. Med Corp Southwest, Inc.
64. Medicare
65. Mega Life
66. Mid-Continent Medical
67. Memorial Health Network
68. Memorial Sisters of Charity
69. Met Life
70. Metra Health
71. Monticello Life Insurance Company
72. Motorola Health Plan
73. Mutual of Omaha

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
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CAMPUS NEWS

In Brief

Students returned to Prairie View in January to find an old fee with a new name.

In accordance with a state law passed in May, all Texas institutions of higher education are required to re-designate the General Use Fee as Board Authorized Tuition.

Harmonious sounds filled the air on the ground floor of Memorial Student Center yesterday evening.

Chozen Generation, a group of about 30 Prairie View students sings gospel.

The group's upcoming projects include performing for T.D. Jakes on March 6 and the release of their first album in May.

Provided by the U.S. Department of Justice

Using hair to test for drugs

More companies are testing hair samples from job applicants for traces of illegal drugs. How this controversial procedure is done:

Telltale traces trapped

Drug traveling through bloodstream is trapped permanently by follicle inside core of hair strand

Follicle

Skin

Artery

Vein

- Hair grows about 1/2 inch a month
- 3-inch strand contains 6-month record of drug use

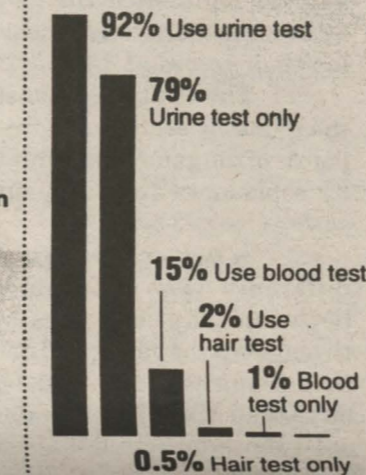
SOURCES: Harvard Magazine, American Management Association

The test

- Hair is snipped close to scalp at crown of head
- Lab washes hair, then dissolves it with enzyme
- Chemical test looks for drug traces in solution
- If first test indicates possible drugs, more precise mass spectrometer test is performed

Urine test still tops

Types of drug tests used by employers, from a survey of 628 companies:



Controversy

- Thick dark hair, many scientists say, more likely to hold drug traces than light blond hair
- Exposure to drug without ingesting it (touching tainted money, for example) may produce positive test

Substance abusers at Prairie View should think a little harder before indulging in illegal drugs because detection technology is advancing with the turn of the century.

As we move into the 21st century, more companies are testing for drug abuse through hair samples in addition to the traditional urine samples.

Prairie View graduates may encounter testing provided by Hair Trac Technology (HTT), a company that researches the advantages of drug testing using hair samples.

A recent study performed by HTT indicates that hair testing is becoming the standard in pre-employment testing.

More industry is switching to hair testing because the sample provides a more comprehensive look at drug use by detecting a historical pattern of drug abuse up to approximately six months.



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Your attendance at the Information Meeting is a prerequisite to the interviewing process. Please attend. Refreshments provided!

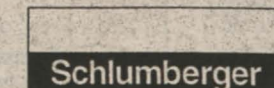
Prairie View A&M Interviews

Information Meeting - February 16, 1998

7:30pm-9:30pm • Engineering Bldg.

Interviewing - February 17, 1998

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What's Happening.....

Saturday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m. ASU vs. PVU women basketball 7:30 p.m. ASU vs. PVU men basketball

Sunday, Feb. 8 at 7:52 p.m. Gamma Sigma Sigma Information Seminar

Monday, Feb. 9 1st Fee Installment due, Withdrawal from class w/o record ends

5:30 p.m. Jackson State vs. PVU women's basketball

7:30 p.m. Jackson State vs PVU men's basketball

7:00 p.m. Miss Black & Gold pageant
7:00 p.m. Misconceptions of Alpha Kappa Alpha

7:00 p.m. Zeta Phi Beta Information Seminar

Tuesday, Feb. 10 - Christian Debate Week

Kappa Kappa Psi-Valentine Sing-A-Grams (Daytime)

Sigma Gamma Rho-Valentine's Day Sale (Daytime)

Withdrawal from class w/"W" begins 7:00 p.m. - Gamma Phi Delta Bible Study

Wednesday, Feb. 11 AFRICAN ATTIRE DAY

Kappa Kappa Psi-Valentine Sing-A-Grams (Daytime)

Sigma Gamma Rho-Valentine's Day Sale (Daytime)

7:00 p.m. - CAB-Movie Nights

8:00 p.m. - Fraternal Order of Classy Gentleman Info Seminar

Thursday, Feb. 12 Purple & Gold Day
Sigma Gamma Rho-Valentine's Day Sale (Daytime)

Spring Fest Committee Meeting

6:00 p.m. Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. PVU women's basketball

8:00 p.m. Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs PVU men's basketball

CAMPUS NEWS

Purple from page 3

there was a problem with how many languages could be used in no trespassing postings and also how often to place signs. In East Texas, there was a problem of marking property lines where a timber company should start and stop cutting timber.

Allowing time for everyone to understand what the purple paint means, people have until September to post a no trespassing sign at the entrance of their property.

Prairie View A&M University's royal purple homage now means keep out too.

Bush from page 6

ability to either create or sell what people want or need.

Every semester we graduate in droves on this and other campuses; talented engineers, doctors, lawyers, business managers, and scientists.

The problem is, right after graduation those same talented people usually look to put their talent to work for huge white corporations like Boeing or Proctor & Gamble.

It's almost as if none of these talented people even want to try to start their own corporations. Why is that? Is it fear of failure? Lack of funds? Or is it simply taking the easy way out?

A fear of failure is irrational because to succeed at anything no matter what, it's necessary to try, and failure is always possible so why limit yourself with fear.

As for lack of funds, that's not really a valid excuse because there are funds out there in the form of small business loans, grants, and minority endowments.

Used as seed money these funds could help build a company to such a level that it could even consider selling shares on the stock market, giving it access to even more money.

If we could get over our fear, go after the money that's out there, and create

these corporations, we could have the solid economic muscle needed to give those political leaders, like Bush, 100 million green reasons to do something about the issues that concern us while they're in office.

If not, then we can continue to take the easy way out, work anonymously in some huge white-owned corporation and suffer the consequences of having few, in any, on capitol hill concerned with the issues that affect us.

So in essence, this Bush fiasco should be a wake up call to us all.

Big money is what talks in Washington.

It pays for campaigns to get votes, which keeps politicians in office.

If we want to see our concerns dealt with, we have to get ourselves in positions to scratch their backs before they'll seriously think about scratching ours.

We have the answers to our own questions and concerns, we just need to take more time to seriously and collectively pursue the answers.

Rivalry from page 10

allowed TSU to stay within reach throughout the entire competition.

It was not until the final two minutes that the Lady Panthers began to pull away and distinguish their victory to make their record 3-14.

The Lady Panthers' field goal and free throw percentages were not exceptional. In fact, TSU shot 41 percent while PVAMU maintained a field goal percentage of 31.

The Panthers had 12 turnovers - their season high, but their rebounds and steals made the difference in this game.

Sophomore Felicia Tarver is leading the Southwestern Athletic Conference in rebounds. Tarver pulled in 13 rebounds against TSU and has grabbed more than 200 rebounds this season. She ranked ninth in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

In addition to rebounding, 14 steals snatched

by the Lady Panthers expressed their strong defensive effort. There was no one individual with the most steals as they were distributed between the PVAMU players fairly evenly.

In the men's game, the age-old rivalry continued with ferocity.

Cheerleaders competed to be heard above the fans, band, and disc jockey playing on stage.

But all the support from the PVAMU fans did not help the Panthers in their 74-82 overtime loss to TSU leaving their record at 4-13.

The Panthers opened the game by scoring the first points of the game with a dunk by sophomore Aron Thompson.

A two or three point difference was maintained between the two teams throughout the game, and neither team held the lead for more than a couple of minutes until the Panthers fell apart in overtime.

Early fouls forced senior Julius Marble to hold his

play in check to prevent putting the Panthers into bonus early and to keep himself in the game.

The fastbreak action of both teams made defense a key issue in the final minutes of overtime.

By leaving the baseline open, TSU had the opportunity to move in and make a few easy shots to give the Tigers a four point lead that grew as fouls continued to put both of the teams at the free throw line.

Senior Saladin Bilodeau credited the loss to a "lack of experience in those situations."

"[With the Panthers] being up by 10 points with three minutes left in the game, you think you've got the game sewed up," Bilodeau said.

Entering the second half of conference play, both Panther basketball teams seem hopeful.

"If we make some changes - attitude changes - for the second half of the season, then it will go good," said Bilodeau.

Book Review

The More Things Change... The More They Stay the Same

A critical look at how a book written over half a century ago still remains prevalent

By SaKinna Thomas Panther Staff

Almost everyone has heard the motto "Knowledge is power" or perhaps the saying "the more you know the more you grow" is more familiar. But, what happens to a race of people when the knowledge they acquire expresses that the oppressor is everything and has accomplished everything worthwhile? Even scarier... What does the race grow and become when they are made to feel that their race does not amount to much and never will measure up to the standards of other people?

Carter G. Woodson in "The Mis-Education of the Negro" takes a critical look at the education of the African-American and the effects of a system which does not foster pride in one's self.

Woodson, an educator, historian, and author, examined various important issues concerning our education: education under outside control; how African-Americans drifted away from the truth; and how African-Americans have been conditioned to despise their own race, and other

Is all of this really true? Have African-Americans really been taught to despise themselves? To illustrate his point, Carter

"When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. His education makes it necessary."
— Carter G. Woodson

used the example of an "educated Negro" preferring to buy his food from a white grocer because he has been taught that the Negro is not clean. Stating that the mentality of the Negro is that he believes that no matter how often a

education of African-Americans, the most important thing in their uplifting, is almost entirely in the hands of those who have enslaved and discriminated against them, and taught them to discriminate against themselves.

Have African-Americans been conditioned to believe that African-American businesses cannot operate as well as their white counterparts? Do African-Americans have ambitions of succeeding in corporate America with hopes of escaping neighborhoods that are predominately Black? Hopefully many African-Americans can say "no" to these questions.

The horrifying element of this all is that this book was written in 1933 and yet is still relevant in 1998. All African-Americans who realize the importance of an education and the need for self acceptance should stimulate their minds with this historic work.

Other events they have planned for this month include a campus wide art contest. The contest will feature pieces that exemplify the artist's perception of the importance of Black history month.

On Feb. 23, a guest speaker is scheduled to talk about how motivation prompted many historical people and events. Also in honor of Black history month, Hempstead Junior High School will begin each morning with a little known Black history fact which highlights the accomplishments of a person of color.

In collaboration with this effort, every Friday, the school will sponsor miniature Black history programs that focus on contributions that African-Americans have made to society. On Feb. 27 at 2:30p.m., there will be a grand finale in the school's auditorium which will be open to the public.

"Schultz Middle School is doing things as a cohesive unit to celebrate Black history month," said Assistant Principal Cazilda Steele of Waller I.S.D.

Right now, the school is putting together

see Wells on page 11

BLACK HISTORY

Learning about history before college

By Brandee L. Rogers Panther Staff

Only from our past can we learn to improve our future. This is the underlying purpose of the many events in honor of Black history month that are being held at local schools in Waller and Hempstead I.S.D.

Last Saturday, events kicked off honoring Black history month at Hempstead High School with their Apollo Amateur Night Talent Show Contest.

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see History on page 11

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Legend of a leader:

A chronicle of the life and times of Ida B. Wells

By Quevarra M. Moten Panther Staff

Whenever one thinks of a keen advocate of Black civil rights, women rights, and economic rights, Ida Bell Wells-Barnett is the one to connect with the thought.

Wells was born to a slave cook and a slave carpenter on July 16, 1862 in Holly, MS. She was the oldest of eight children. Her strong advocacy is contributed to her emancipated community activist parents who instilled in all of their children that it is OK to speak up for what is right.

Wells persevered despite her life's tragedies of losing her parents and younger sibling to a yellow fever epidemic that swept through Holly Springs in 1878.

At the age of 16, Wells took over raising her other siblings, and with the help of the Black community, she attended Rust College, finding employment as a teacher after she graduated.

In May 1884, Wells was forcefully removed from a segregated ladies coach owned by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. She sued the railroad and was awarded \$500. Wells felt content but discouraged at the time of the award because the state Supreme Court reversed the ruling of a lower court.

Wells never used violence to voice her anger about injustices to the Black community instead she used her pen and paper to get the message across. As editor of "The Evening Star", "Living Way", and "The Memphis Free Speech and



Ida Bell Wells-Barnett

Amen and Hallelujah: Gospel Extravaganza enjoyed by all

By John Scott
News Editor

Last Friday's Gospel Extravaganza was billed as a precursor to Prairie View A&M's 40th annual Minister's Conference earlier this week. If it was any indication of how the actual conference went, the ministers that attended had a pretty good time.

The show was not well publicized and only drew a small crowd, but those who were in attendance were treated to a pleasant combination of clean comedy and music which moved the body and bolstered the soul.

Although there were a few weak spots in the overall show, the vast majority of the performers did well during their time on the stage, creating the feeling of a good old-fashioned church musical.

One group that truly stuck out was the New Bethel Church Choir which sang a rousing rendition of "Gotta Keep Leaning On" that brought the crowd to its feet and left it singing long after the choir left the stage.

That act was immediately followed

by Jackie Smith and Divinity, another exceptional group who perpetuated the existing energy in the room by delivering their attention-grabbing version of "When I Think About Jesus".

Smith's booming voice resounded throughout Hobart Taylor's recital hall with such resonance that it could send chills up one's spine.

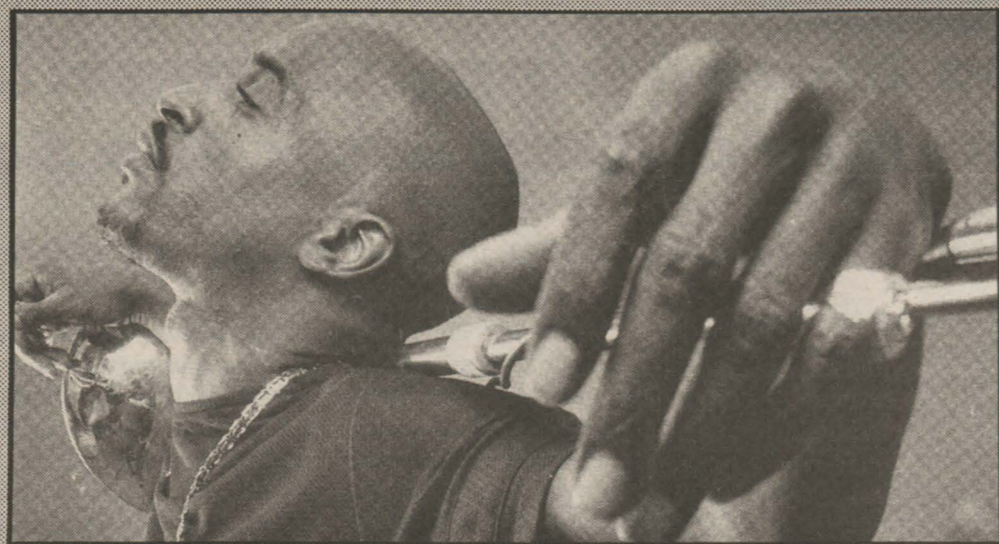
Her talent combined with her sense of humor shined throughout the group's performance and made listening a pleasurable experience.

Other notables were comedienne Margo Hickman with her interesting collage of comedy, singing and poetry, and saxophonist Gregory Daniels with his excellent instrumental pieces.

The final stand-out was the group "Notes Of Harmony" who started their set with a funk-laden "Lay Down My Burden" that even had babies in the crowd trying to clap their hands.

"Notes Of Harmony" eventually ended their set with a foot stompin' down home rendition of "You Don't Know Like I Know" which properly closed out the show.

It's been a long time: The microphone god's finally back



Hip-hop icon Rakim returns to claim the throne

By Brandon E. Allen
Panther Staff

"Guess Who's Back", "It's Been A Long Time," "Stay A While," and "Show Me Love" are just a few tracks off of Rakim Allah's long awaited double album *The 18th Letter...the Book of Life*.

It has been about a decade since the true scientist graced an album cover, stage or was a featured guest on a song. On *The 18th Letter* Rakim is solo and picking up where he left off, never letting the mic magnetize him.

The 18th Letter is a double CD that is a compilation of his new songs mixed with his greatest hits.

The first disc

has all of his new songs: "When I'm Flowin'", "The Mystery" and "Remember That".

The "R" lays down the law of what true Hip-Hop is - not rap - on this disc, which simply consists of the M.C., a phat beat, and a DJ scratching on the mic.

Hip-Hop is also where the M.C. talks about elevation of the mind, body and soul, and not Versace, Versace, Versace.

The second disc, for all of you who remember Rakim when he was on "Paid In Full" or "Follow the Leader" is full of his classics like "Eric B. for President", "I Ain't No Joke", "Know the Ledge", and "Mahogany," just to name a few.

Listening to these classics made me want to

break out my fat checkered laces for my black Adidas, my black Kangol and black Adidas jumpsuit and do the "Whop!"

It's been a long time, but Rakim is back and he is here to stay. It's time to change from commercial rap back to Hip-Hop in its purest form and the "R" is here to take the lead.

You know what I'm talking about, when Hip-Hop was about moving and elevating the crowd not, "all about the Benjamin's!"

Panther Music Ratings:
Rookie, Starter, All-Star or Superstar.

The 18th Letter:
Superstar

Residents from the Land of Boogie



New school producer Timbaland (right) and his rhyming sidekick Magoo (left).

By Nakita Wanza
Atlantic Records correspondent

There is a new producer/rapper duo on the music scene and they are welcoming us into their world of hip-hop and R&B music. Timbaland and Magoo, two Virginia natives, started creating their craft in the late 1980s.

Timbaland who began as a DJ in the Virginia Beach area spent almost 10 years crafting samples of English drum, bass and electronic music to an art form. Timbaland made a lasting impression in '96 with his production work on Aaliyah, Ginuwine and SWV. He also added his touch to Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliot's debut album *Supa Dupa Fly*.

Magoo, on the other hand, has a first love of dancing which is what he was doing at the time he met his creative partner Timbaland. He kept his rapping talents on hold until he felt it was time to share them with his new found friend and partner. The rest is history because they have been blowing up the charts with hits like "Up Jumps the Boogie" and "Luv to Luv".

"We've chosen to take music back to the old school, the way rap music started," Magoo said.

The CD consists of 18 tracks that are sure to have you boppin' your head. So if you're looking for a CD that you can throw in and get your groove on, then check out *Welcome to Our World* on Blackground Enterprise/Atlantic Records label.

20 Questions

1. Is George Bush the next President of this university?
2. Why does the men's coaching staff seem to stop coaching around the final minutes of the game?
3. What was the Marching Storm's purpose since TSU's uninvited Ocean did all the playing at our home game?
4. While we're one of the best bands in the SWAC, why does the Storm only play at the PVTSU game?
5. Why is it that whenever there is a big home game athletics always waits until the day before the game to sell tickets?
6. Why does everyone have a raffle at the same time?
7. Why is Valentine's Day so important to women?
8. Doesn't it seem like men only have one holiday?
9. Is it us or do more women smoke Black & Milds than men?
10. Doesn't Ron Jones look like Dr. Hines?
11. By the way, where is Dr. Hines, anyway?
12. Why does it seem like the school will take money faster than returning overpayments?
13. Aren't you glad Hot Wings are back at KFC?
14. Why does the staff at Farrell Hall have to see your clothes before they can give you tokens that you paid for?
15. Why does the smell around University Village seem to be getting stronger?
16. What's up with this campus' tired-I-wish-I-was-a-real-cop-policemen?
17. Mmmmm....doesn't some of Alumni's mystery dish sound good right about now?
18. Why are there more cars than parking spaces?
19. Isn't Waller beginning to look like a ghost town now that 290 runs around it?
20. What do you think?

The Panther wants to know what you think. Please submit any question you may have to the Office of Student Publication, room 114 in the bottom of the MSC.

PSAT DIME

10 of *The Panther* staff's current favorites in no particular order

If You Think I'm Jiggy
The LOK

Anytime
Brian McKnight

Gone Til November
Wyclef Jean

Luv 2 Luv
Timbaland and Magoo

Nice & Slow
Usher

For You
Kenny Latimore

Streets is Watching
Jay-Z

Together Again (Remix)
Janet Jackson

Beep Me 911
Missy Elliot

Deja' Vu
Lord Tariq & Peter Gunz

Black History Month



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When I die God can a souljah rest in peace
Lookin' out for my people
While the murder rates increase
Let my spirit be a voice embedded in their brain
Giving strength when they feel that their going insane
Tell my story and how I'm living heavenly
How I never let the world get the best of me
Knowledge of self is the key to salvation
Breaking mental chains with true education
Studied my history and recognized it was full of jewels
Never accepted the reality believed by those fools
Cause life is much deeper than the things you see
Use the third to find the answers to this mystery....

-- by Steve "Da Pain" James

Attention all poets: *The Panther* is looking for poetry. We will select two poems to publish in each issue. Please submit poetry to *The Panther* in the bottom of the MSC, Rm. 114.

SPORTS NEWS

Football team prepares for brighter future next season

By Jo-Carolyn Goode
Panther Staff

Powerful, tough, united, determined - these are just a few words which describe the future of PVAMU football team.

With the guidance of a new, young coaching staff, the Panthers are becoming tougher than ever before, under new weight training conditioning programs.

According to Willis Alexander, offensive coordinator for the Panthers, the team plans to take care of their house first.

To achieve this goal,

the Panthers' eyes are set on 25 recruits awaiting to join the dynamic group in the making.

In fact, many have already committed themselves to Prairie View A&M University.

Spring practice begins March 23 for the upcoming season and Panther fans are encouraged to continue showing their support for the home team.

Practices are open to be viewed by students and fan support is strongly requested by the team.

Don't miss the annual purple and gold game on April 15.

On track to SWAC, NCAA Championship

By Patrina A. Bostic
Managing Editor

With the clock ticking away to the men's and women's Indoor NCAA track and field Championship, two coaches' optimism goes the distance.

Head women's track coach Essie Washington and head men's coach Hoover Wright have a positive outlook toward the performance of the Panthers during the upcoming NCAA track and field championships.

"NCAA Championship is where the best collegiate athletes end up. If you make it to the NCAA, you meet up with all the big dogs. We hope to advance," said Washington.

The upcoming Southwestern Athletic Con-

ference (SWAC), held Feb. 14-15 at Louisiana State University is the competition where participants can qualify to compete in the Indoor NCAA Championship, which is scheduled on March 13-14 in Indianapolis, IN.

"It would be nice to take sprinters to the NCAA this year because for the last five years the women's team have taken only jumpers," said Washington.

According to Washington, sprinters and quarter milers are running well, distance runners need more work, and the freshmen are impressive this year.

Among those expected to advance in the women's competition are Stephanie Redden of Houston and Tia Talley of Fort Worth in the 200 and 400

meters, and Laura Bailey of Michigan in the long and triple jumps.

Prairie View's men track team took a first place victory over nine competing schools in the last meet held Jan. 24 at McNeese State University.

The team competed well in all aspects of the competition, sprint and distance races and field events.

Coach Wright said the team has made substantial progress, and are looking forward to the SWAC and NCAA competitions.

"We have a good chance of winning the SWAC Championship," said Redden.

In the meantime, the teams gear up for the McNeese Indoor Invitational competition this Friday, Feb. 6-7.

Panther women stand tall; PV men fall to TSU rivalry

By Tiara M. Ellis
Editor-in-Chief

Sitting on opposite sides of the babydome, Prairie View A&M University's "Marching Storm" and Texas Southern's "Ocean of Soul" competed song for song, as the basketball teams on the court went back and forth - each trying to beat the other in style, as well as power.

Prairie View's rivalry with TSU has a strong history that is evident in every sport, but none more than basketball. The babydome was nearly filled to capacity with almost 5,000 people in attendance for the games on Saturday, Jan. 31.

In typical HBCU (historically black college and university) style, two anthems were performed before men's and women's games. Cesily Wagner sang the national anthem and Johnny Williams performed the Negro national anthem before the women's basketball game.

Members of Kappa Kappa Psi vocalized their version of the Star Spangled Banner and Tameisha Cullins sang the Negro national anthem before the men's game.

The women's win Saturday night with a score of 56-45 was their first conference win of the season. "It's a relief. Hopefully, it (win) will carry over into the second half of conference play," said sophomore point guard, Shonta' Greenwood.

Although the Lady Panthers led the majority of the game, they

See Rivalry on page 6

Upcoming Sports Events.....

- Feb. 6 - Softball: v. Texas Southern University @ PV; 6 p.m.
- Feb. 7 - Tennis: v. Texas Southern University @ PV; 10 a.m.
- Basketball: v. Alabama State @ PV; 5:30 p.m.
- Track: v. McNeese @ Lake Charles; all day
- Baseball: v. Houston Tillotson @ Austin; 1 p.m.
- Feb. 9 - Basketball: v. Jackson @ PV; 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11 - Bowling: v. Texas Southern @ Houston; 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Feb. 12 - Basketball: v. Arkansas-Pine Bluff @ PV; 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13 - Softball: v. Texas Southern @ PV; 6 p.m.
- Feb. 14 - Track: SWAC @ Louisiana State @ Baton Rouge; all day
- Baseball: v. Sam Houston @ PV 2p.m.
- Softball: v. Concordia @ PV; 1 p.m.

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COMIC RELIEF

History from page 7

murals around campus - that signify the importance of acknowledging the roles Blacks played in American history. They are also posting alongside the murals, "I Have A Dream" essays that were written by various students expressing their dreams and how they plan to accomplish them.

In addition, every Wednesday, members of Student Council will read short excerpts from a list of quotes by famous African-American notables.

Even younger people are doing things at school in honor of the past achievements of African-Americans.

At the city of Prairie View's H.T. Jones Intermediate School, teachers have planned a variety of activities.

Many of these include watching videos which highlight some of the most influential Black people in society like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Harriet Tubman.

Students will have a chance to participate in plays that will be performed for their parents.

All of these activities at local schools were designed to bring an awareness of the accomplishments of African-Americans in society because they are too often overlooked.

Wells from page 7

In 1895, Wells married Ferdinand Barnett who was also a strong advocate for Black equality. Wells' anti-lynching activities were a part of making her one of two Black women to call for the formation of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909. Wells later left the association because of its predominantly white board and its shyness when confronting racial issues.

Convinced that Black citizens had to organize themselves and take command in fighting for their own independence from white oppression, Wells, through her campaigns, speeches, reports, books, and agitation, raised important questions about the future of Black Americans.

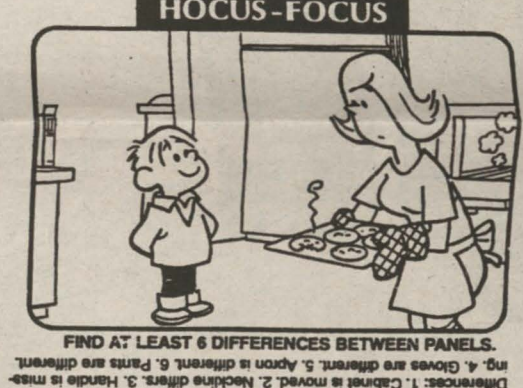
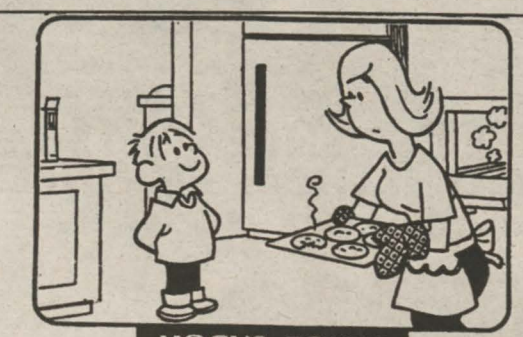
Sixty-seven years after Wells' death, Blacks today may still be searching for answers for their controversy-filled plight in America.

PANTS

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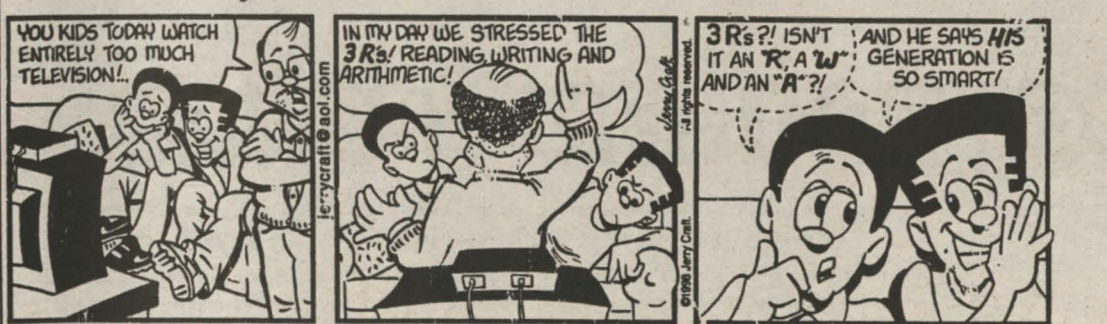
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions-forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Bermudas	Flannels	Overalls	Sweats
Buckskins	Flares	Pants	Trousers
Cords	Jeans	Shorts	

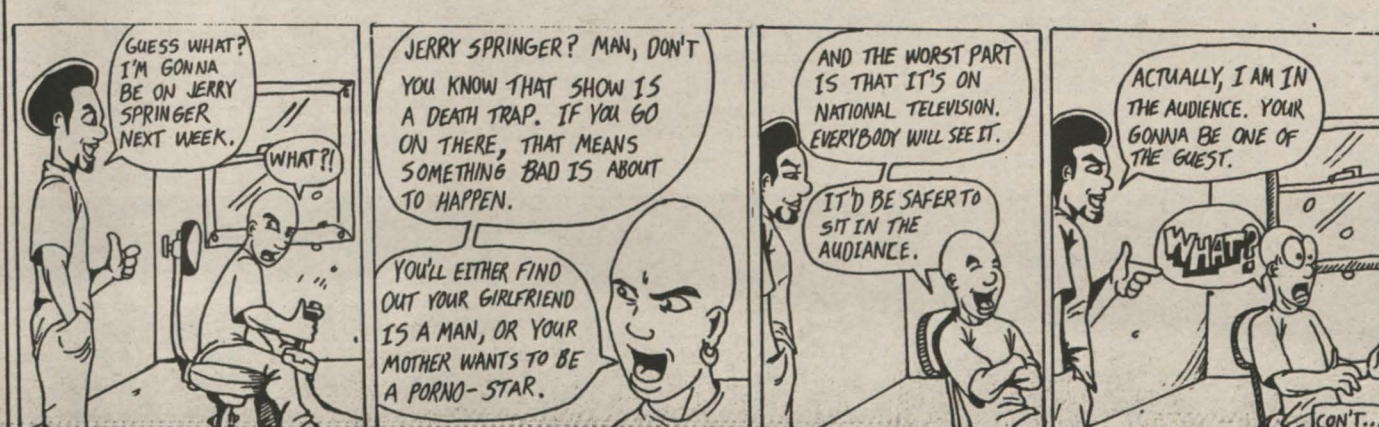


FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.
Fig. 4. Gloves are different. 5. Apron is different. 6. Pants are different.

MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT



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



KING CROSSWORD

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| 26 Moreover | 54 Melody | 37 Looks angry |
| 28 Plumber's tool | 55 Crescent-shaped figures | 10 Cattle |
| 31 Doggie-bag fill | 56 Fib | 11 Bakery employee |
| 33 Vessel for three men | 57 Dr.'s field | 16 Figure head? |
| 35 Hoosegow | 58 Gaze in fear | (abbr.) |
| 36 Simoleons | 59 Crucial | 20 Soprano Lily |
| 38 Follow relentlessly | DOWN | 21 Nitwit |
| 40 Dernier | 1 Dieter's target | 22 Beige |
| 41 Hayseed | 2 Blunder | 23 Shibboleth |
| 43 Sweet waif | 3 Ostrich's kin | 27 Flop |
| 45 He knew the gravity of the situation | 4 Turkey's capital | 29 Opera star |
| 47 Card game | 5 Drop | Te Kanawa |
| 48 Partner of plata | 6 No longer chic | 30 Green acres |
| | 7 Incites | 32 Revue segment |
| | 8 Subjects | 34 City that's far from |

Answers to King Crossword

THE FINAL WORD

Street dreams: Are they too much to ask for?

By Carlos Hopkins
Panther Staff

For two years, I have seen many improvements at Prairie View like the renovation of the Administration building, a new meal plan, and University Village.

These improvements are good for students, and I commend Dr. Hines for assisting with them.

However, my question is, "when are you going to improve the streets around here?"

We (well not exactly "we" since I don't have a car but I get plenty of rides) are tired of driving around campus constantly having to hit the brakes to avoid a pothole in the middle of the road, especially the turn in front of the phase I University Village clubhouse.

What about the street going from Farrell Hall to the engineering building? I mean, MYGOD, if you go fast enough you can jump right into the tech building's parking lot.

Other areas to be im-

proved are: the entrance of University Drive, T. R. Soleman Street (the street in front of Hobart Taylor), D. J. Thomas Street (the street in front of the "Baby Dome"), all of L. W. Minor (particularly along the side of University Village), R. B. Evans Street (mainly between the Delco building and the Owens-Franklin Health Center), the corner of Anne Preston Street and Cleaver Street (the circle near the Home Economics Building), Anne Preston Street in front of Fuller Hall

to the ROTC Building, the large humps on D. W. Martin in front of the S. R. Collins Building, and E. N. Norris Street in front of Holley Hall.

What about the safety of the pedestrians like me?

Some places have no sidewalk and we have to walk in the street. When crossing in front of the clinic going toward the Delco building, you might hook your foot on a pothole and fall into the rear of a parked car.

On the side of Hilliard Hall the walking conditions

are terrible.

I am tired of being almost ran into while walking in the street trying to avoid the soaked, muddy grass so I can keep my shoes clean when I cross the street near the University Village. What is a clean "brotha" like me supposed to do?!!

Seriously, this school really means a lot to me and I would like to see it in the best shape possible. Dr. Hines please hurry and try to improve the streets because we need it.



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