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THE PANTHER



The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Honor Thy Brother

March commemorates memory of King



Photo by Glenn Russell

Dietrick Tillis re-enacts Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I've Been to the Top of the Mountain" speech during the Alpha Phi Alpha march in honor of their deceased fraternity brother.

By Jo-Carolyn Goode
Panther Staff

The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Eta Gamma Chapter sponsored the first "I Have A Dream" march in honor of fellow fraternity brother Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Many gathered in front of the Memorial Student Center on Jan. 18, 1999 in remembrance.

Students marched from the Memorial Student Center to the new student park. As the students marched under the beaming sun, they reflected the many worthwhile issues King preached about.

Many of King's marches were done hand in hand without violence. On Monday, there was unity among everyone. Songs of the struggle and rejoices were

See **March** on page 15

Athletics' survival continues after payment of \$31,000 SWAC fine

By Tiara M. Ellis
Editor-in-Chief

No, Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is not leaving the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC).

No, PVAMU is not being forced to adhere to any stern sanctions imposed by SWAC Commissioner, Rudy Washington, or the SWAC board of presidents.

The Marching Storm, PVAMU's band, is not even being forced to attend every football game for the next three years to show moral support.

PVAMU did, however, pay the fine of \$31,000 in December, as required by the SWAC, for not adhering to the suspension placed on the band after the fight it was involved in with Southern University's band last September.

The money to pay this

fine was withdrawn from the Student Fees Reserve account, which is established for such emergencies.

So, tuition will not increase because of the \$31,000 fine.

"Our athletic programs are funded from non education and general dollars. Our annual budgets are tightly controlled and all expenditures are programmed a

See **Fine** on page 15

Index

* Check out what your peers think of DMX's and DJ Clue's new releases on pages 10 & 11.

* Now Introducing: "Braids, Fades, and Purple Kool-Aide" a profile of an organization or person doing positive works at PVAMU on page 7.



PV student, graduate gunned down in alleged drug dispute

By Kesha C. Jones
Panther Staff

Two of Prairie View A&M University's (PVAMU) own were recently involved in a drug bust that took place in Pasadena.

The violence ended with six police officers leaving behind 46 shell casings, two men dead and another wounded, according to Pasadena police spokesman Sgt. J.M. Baird.

The two men killed were Keithen Marcel Brisco,

24, who was a PVAMU criminal justice major and a recent criminal justice graduate, Empra Tavar Moore, 23. Moore's brother, Robert Moore, 19, who is planning to attend PVAMU, was taken from the scene wounded.

In a recent interview, Baird stated that the occurrence was a promotion sting operation that, along with the investigation of the suspects, had been planned for several days.

When asked if the suspects had any previous criminal record he said he could not dispel that information.



Empra Moore, PVAMU graduate

Baird also said he did not know who was the target of the sting operation. However, he did state that the

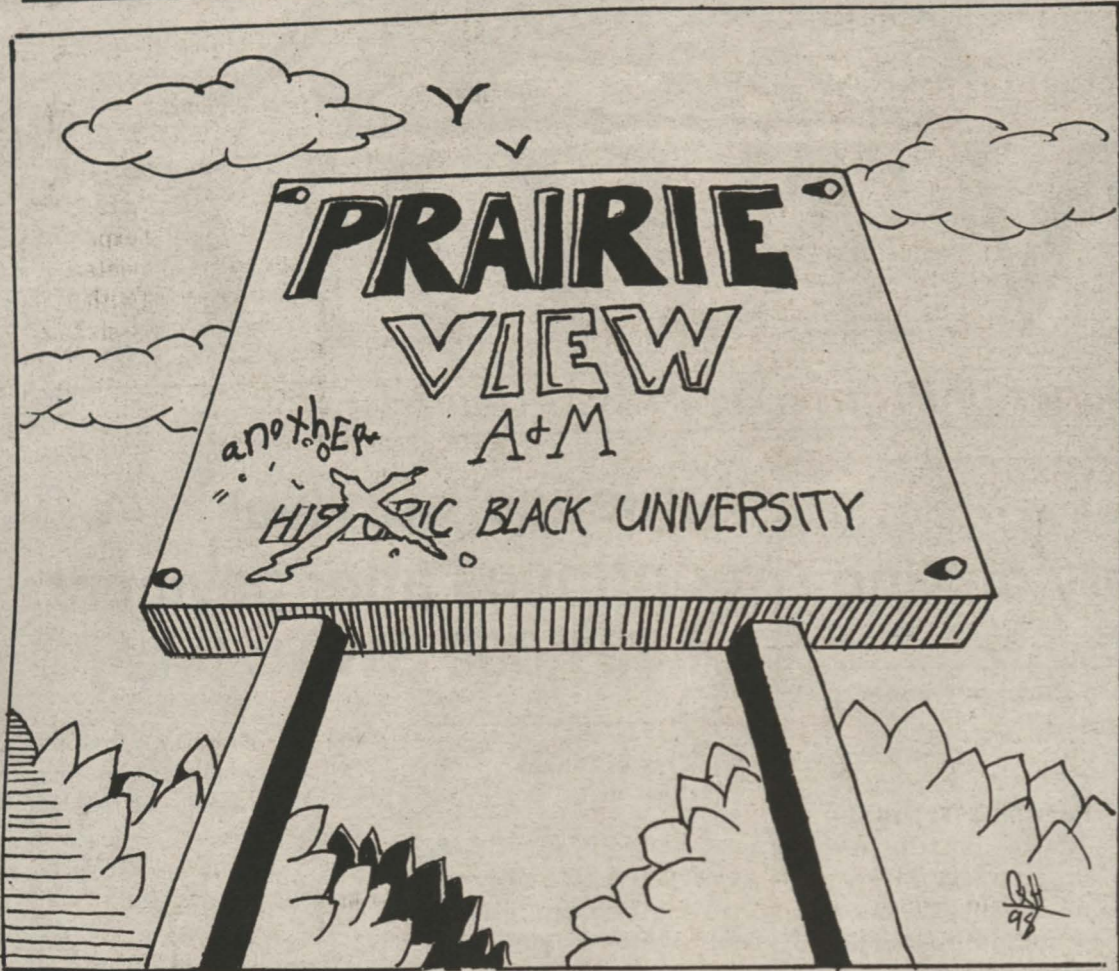
Pasadena police did not anticipate all of the suspects to appear on the scene, but they were all later linked together.

"There were 46 six shell casings found at the crime scene. At this time we do believe that the suspects did not open fire, but ... there was a gun found on Brisco. The results of the test have not come in yet, but we do believe that it was not used," said Baird.

The promotion sting operation consisted of an un-

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VIEWPOINTS



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Editorial Policy

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Lost students show no appreciation for their presence at HBCU



Tiara M. Ellis
 Editor-in-Chief

Do you realize where you are? How many people get to actually attend college? And you have the privilege of going to a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Do you realize you have the honor of getting an education at the second oldest institution of higher learning in Texas, second only to Texas A&M University (TAMU)?

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is the only charter member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) still in the conference. Grambling, Southern, Texas Southern, Alabama, and the other SWAC schools all came after PVAMU. We are one of the originators, yet there are those who want us to leave the conference we helped bring into existence.

Pride should keep us from allowing any negative image to come onto our prestigious university. And when it can't be stopped, then we should work together to destroy that cynical portrayal.

Up until a year ago, open enrollment allowed anyone to gain admittance into PVAMU. People who may have not had the best grades throughout high school, had the opportunity to make a change and get a college education.

You can give someone a book, but he or she has to want to gain knowledge to open that book. Education has to be something you want. Getting into college is only one step toward earning a degree. There are no points for having attended college for a semester or two. The ultimate goal of completing college is what matters.

Texas Southern University still has open enrollment and one of the lowest graduation rates in the nation. Don't seem shocked, because we are not too far above them on that scale.

Every semester there are new faces, which would not be so bad if the old faces weren't disappearing without getting their degrees. It's understandable that money is an issue, but when you lose your financial aid because you can't maintain a 2.5 grade point average, you begin endangering the opportunity for others to get financial aid.

See **Lost** on page 3

Student fights negativity by educating colleagues



By Santee's Bowers
 Advertising Manager

Growing up over the years my mother taught me a special lesson. She stated that since we live in America, I automatically had two strikes against me. One for being Black and two for being a woman. She meant that I would have to compete mentally and physically against

the negatives of society.

In other words, I had to be smarter than the average person so that I could 'eat' day to day; conceptually meaning, making a way to survive. With this in mind, I have primarily carried myself in a manner that can be respected and I treat others the same way.

But through it all, the negative views of society oppose me regardless. As a Black woman at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU), I no-

See **Fight** on page 3

VIEWPOINTS

Carry on legacy of change evoked by King



By Joyce Dixon
 Managing Editor

The Reverend Clarence Talley's recent article in the Houston Chronicle, "We must continue to build on King's legacy of change" is one man's opinion of how not only African Americans, but also all mankind in America must change.

The article was written as a reminder to all as the country celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on Monday, Jan. 18.

Talley suggested that a change is still required in America even though there have been others in the past that have put endless effort to change the country and have achieved some semblance of success.

The success they achieved is evident in the world around us. No longer do African Americans have to enter at the back door, no longer are they considered second-class citizens. Racism and discrimination in America is no longer displayed openly on a wide scale.

This is only a little of the dream Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned suggested Talley. He believes there is still room for change. However, Talley doesn't suggest changing the system or the communities, he suggests that we change ourselves.

"It is impossible to change the condition of our world until we deal with self," said Talley.

When we change ourselves there is no need for reforming the system or reforming others. That change will come automatically.

Talley goes on to explain how Americans are destroying themselves, their families, and others.

The increased use of drugs among youth, bizarre criminal behavior, hate filled hearts, violence in homes, communities, schools, on the job and on the streets, gang activity, a burdened court system and prisons filled to capacity are the downfall of the nation. These are the things that are destroying us.

According to Talley, "America is no good to other nations until she rises out of the slop and returns to God."

All of these are reasons we must change and change now. Tomorrow is not promised to any of us, therefore we must not wait.

Talley's article was inspiring and motivational to say the least. He pays tribute to not only King but also other pioneers in the struggle for freedom by calling for action. He doesn't spend a lot of time telling their story, but rather encouraging readers to do like these great pioneers did.

Talley said these freedom fighters had one thing in common: "a desire for change." Because they were not satisfied with the status quo, neither should we.

Anyone who reads the article is forced to not only reflect and pay tribute to those who have paved the way for equality in America today, but they are also compelled to ask themselves, "How can I change?"

The Reverend Clarence Talley is assistant pastor at Mount Corinth Baptist Church in Hempstead. He is also a professor of art at PVAMU. His article appeared in the January 17, 1999 edition of the Houston Chronicle.

Fight from page 2

faced that people treat you differently when they know you have a status or the ability to personally help them, and worse when they only know of you.

It seems like they make assumptions that you are incompetent when they choose not to take the extra step to personally get to know you and find out why you chose to make the decisions that you did.

Not to say that I am an important person on campus, but I find certain reactions interesting when I participate in organization meetings. I find that I am some-

times a that is not well favored, because I chose to edit a story that was submitted to *The Panther*, because I chose to do my job right. It's difficult to believe that this 'brother' would speak negatively about a newspaper and staff that strongly supports numerous student activities, especially when he is part of a coalition that believes in Blacks supporting each other.

Don't think that this person is alone. Everyday students deny themselves that opportunity to grow and mentally evolve. Instead of taking the right road, some choose the 'white' road, presuming that their peers are less profi-

cient or capable of various skills than they are and putting them down.

Instead of assuming that our own colleagues are against us, I feel that as young people we should expand our minds and stop mentally enslaving ourselves with prejudices. We should assist those who need help year long, instead of waiting until the holidays. Take the initiative to educate yourselves with the knowledge of the history about our professors, peers and campus community. Prepare for this spring semester and try to excel mentally farther than the semester before.

Lost from page 2

There are people in this world who try to go to college, but don't have the money or grades.

Yet, here you are at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) in the process of gaining a degree. Do you truly appreciate that?

When we finally won a football game, were you truly proud of the players and coaches? Or were you just partying and drinking, because it was simply an excuse to partake in a PV party?

Pride is deeper than sports and academics. It relates to the reputation of the university and how people respond to your institution.

The name, PVAMU, itself is full of pride and heritage that should be carried with the students of this great university where ever they go.

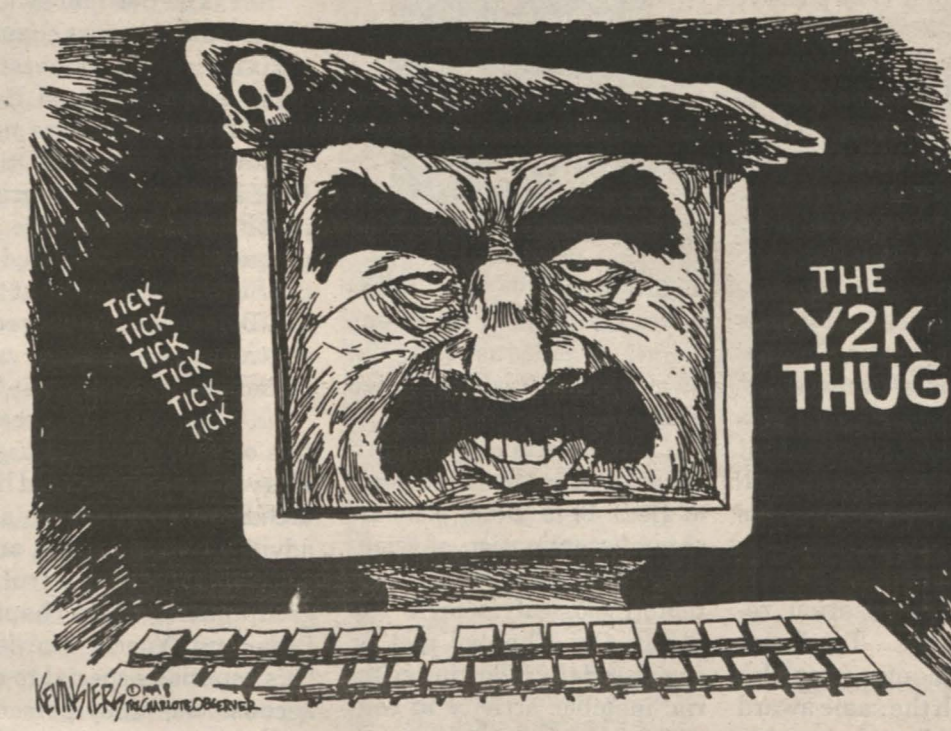
When walking the yard, you saw faces you automatically recognized. People spoke to one another, whether they knew each other's name or not. The fact that all of you chose to attend a black university gave you something in

common.

When it is all said and done, it doesn't matter why you chose PVAMU. All that matters is that you are here.

What you choose to do with your time here is up to you. But realize that by wasting your time and the time of those trying to help you, you are preventing someone else from gaining the education you care nothing for.

Again, I suggest you ask yourself, "Why am I here and how can I leave a positive mark on this university when I am gone?"



Submission Policy for Letters to the Editor

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

CAMPUS NEWS

Campus remodels, regroups and reorganizes for 1999-2000 year

By Lum-Awah Antang
Panther Staff

The campus of Prairie View has experienced a myriad of changes within the years. The housing facilities have undergone many alterations and more are still underway. The campus is a proud showcase of one of the most modern student housing facilities across the country.

The university president Charles A. Hines commented that he would not let his own dog, live in Holley Hall. He wont have to worry about that because Holley Hall will soon be history.

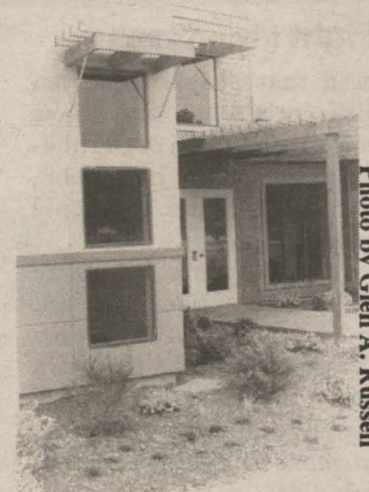
Holley Hall, which opened in September 1972 at a cost of little over \$3 million will soon be demolished. The building, which was named in the honor of the late Thomas L. Holley, a professor of

Industrial Education is only one of the numerous changes the campus is engaging in.

"There is no schedule per se because no approvals have been made to begin the process, but it is projected to take place prior to the end of 99," said Colonel A.D. Aldridge, Director of Housing and Residential services.

Alexander and Buchannan residence halls will also be removed to create space for the proposed University College, which will not serve as University Village Phase IV, but it is designed to be a community facility, steered for new and transfer students.

"Students will receive one-on-one mentoring, faculty assistance, and there will be an adult counselor on each floor to supervise the students who will be housed two per room," Aldridge said.



The front entrance of the Community Center, the newest building on campus.

The new University College is scheduled to open in the fall of 2000.

With the construction of new buildings, it is important to also maintain the old ones.

University Village is only 21/2 years old and President Hines probably wouldn't want his dog living there either.

Photo by Glen A. Russell

Career services offer annual spring job fair in february

By Kalyn Bullock
Panther Staff

Are you looking for something to engage yourself in this summer? Are you interested in making money and having a possible job after graduation? If so you need to attend the Spring Career Fair. On Feb10, 1999, Prairie View's career services will be hosting the second job fair of the year.

The job fair will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Billy J. Knicks University Field House. This job fair is a great opportunity for all students, even incoming freshmen. There are many interns and co-op positions available which can help you in the future.

The career service office offers tips to make the Career Fair worthwhile:

- Dress Appropriately
Ladies : pantsuits, dresses, dress shoes
Gentlemen : Khakis with polo type shirt, slacks, ties and dress shoes or boots
NO T-SHIRTS, JEANS OR TENNIS SHOES

Many employers consider it is important to dress appropriately. A pleasant body odor and weat breath are also important. Resumes also are important. They must be typed and professional.

- Type Resumes
Check, double check and triple check all resumes for accuracy. Be 100% positive that all information submitted on the resume is accurate. Falsified information can lead to future problems.

DO NOT HANDWRITE RESUMES

Companies such as: Lucent Technologies, Motorola Semiconductor, NASA Dryden Flight Research, and Institute of Paper Science and Technology are going to be present. They are looking for Accounting, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and all other majors.

Before the Spring Career Fair on campus, another fair will be offered in Houston at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The date for this event is, Feb 2, 1999, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Transportation will be provided for students interested in attending. Contact Career Services at (409) 857-2055, for more information.

Want A Challenge?

OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

Start your career off on the right foot by enrolling in the Air Force Officer Training School. There you will become a commissioned officer in just 12 weeks. From the start you'll enjoy great pay, complete medical and dental care, 30 days of vacation each year,



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CAMPUS NEWS

Panther cheerleaders earn prestigious title of " Leaders on the Hill "

Corey Johnson
Panther Staff

Spirited and outgoing, the Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) cheerleaders energetically spread school loyalty and spirit each year. Their sponsor, Pamela Thomas, said that being a cheerleader is like working full time.



Photo by Giorgia M. Mhilewe

Following a Prairie View basketball game, the cheerleaders come together to show the spirit and support they have become renowned for on the "Hill."

Aside from having a grueling schedule of 12 hours of practice per week, 30 game performances per semester, and community service activities, the cheerleaders also must maintain a 2.5 GPA.

The squad is currently composed of 11 female and three male cheerleaders and two female mascots. They workout individually to stay in shape.

However, every year different coaches are contracted to help the cheerleaders physically prepare for the upcoming season. This season, trainer Jim Price worked with the cheerleaders.

As the squad trainer, changes Price made with the cheerleaders were beneficial, including a rise in the level of athleticism of the team. Price choreographs the cheerleaders' dances and chants, managing to incorporate some daring acrobatic stunts in their routines.

Last semester, Tho-

mas received full managerial control over the team. She said she is looking forward to another adventurous semes-

ter. Ms. Thomas said she hopes to keep the cheerleaders involved in the promotion of PVAMU through these

events. The cheerleaders expressed their gratitude for their supporters, such as Tim Albert and Damon Maddox of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., who donated the footballs and basketballs that were given as prizes at pep rallies.

Cheerleader sponsor Thomas said she hopes to keep the cheerleaders involved in the promotion of PVAMU through various events.

campuses and encourage the younger cheerleaders to attend PVAMU.

The team also contributes to the annual campus toy drive (sponsored by the Johnson-Phillips All Faiths Chapel), and has volunteered with the Mel Farr Ford car dealership in Houston.

Contributions such as this help the squad to continue to spread school spirit at university events. Thomas said she is grateful to her hard-working managing assistants Virrobin Esther and Joy Turner, who work to make the squad great.

This spring the Annual Cheerleader Black Tie dinner will be held on campus in Alumni Hall. Thomas will acknowledge the entire squad and staff for their hard work at the event.

Anyone interested in becoming a cheerleader should look for bulletins in the coming months. Camp will be held on March 16, and 17. Tryouts will be on March 18.

Outstanding campus leaders chosen for Who's Who

The 1999 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges will include the names of 41 students from Prairie View A&M University. These students have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders. Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have included these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential continued success. These students include:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ms. Misty Adams | Ms. Alvia LeShea Mathis |
| Ms. Lea Barksdale | Ms. Shabrina Mathis |
| Mr. Peter Earl Brown | Ms. Chavone Momon |
| Ms. Shanekia Cain | Ms. Monica Meyers |
| Mr. James Edward Calvery | Ms. Lenora Nelson |
| Ms. Georgla Campbell | Mr. Irvin Oliver |
| Ms. Tahisha LaRu Cosby | Ms. ChiQuia Roberson |
| Ms. Jacquelyn Daniel | Ms. Tameka Robinson |
| Ms. De Warna Dixon | Ms. Brandee Rogers |
| Ms. Dolores Dotson | Ms. Dahl Rollins |
| Mr. Phillip Gage | Mr. Osel Safo |
| Mr. Corey Glass | Mr. Reuben Sampson, Jr. |
| Ms. Natasha Gransberry | Mr. Ihsan Shaheed |
| Ms. Qiana Green | Ms. Kristen Sonnier |
| Ms. Tronya Nycholl Hawkins | Mr. J. D. Spain |
| Ms. Trina Hester | Ms. Khaleiah Taylor |
| Ms. Rosalyn Hicks | Ms. SaKinna Thomas |
| Ms. Jamiaka Nicole Jackson | Ms. Jennifer Renee Whitley |
| Ms. Rhona Jackson | Ms. Tanya Williams |
| Mr. Wayne David Johnson | Ms. Tonya Young |
| Ms. Soinkne Marche Lewis | |

Congratulations to all students who have been selected in the 1999 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

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Why are we smiling? We've all discovered America's best kept secret, the Army National Guard - and you can too. With the Montgomery G.I. Bill, college tuition assistance and a good monthly paycheck, we're all earning money for college. And since the Guard is a part-time commitment, we have time to attend classes now!

In the Army National Guard you can learn career skills, make friendships that will last a life-

time, and be there to help when your neighbors need you most. Call your local recruiter today. Finding out more about what the Guard offers may put a smile on your face.

1-800-GO-GUARD



Get a Clue!

Friends and neighbors, we're gathered here today to discuss something near and dear; something essential to the college students life: music. I don't need to express how important it is to us. You already know. Imagine life without it. College students need music to study to, music to ride to, music to chill to, music to . . . well you get the point.

Today's subject is the new release from DJ Clue, "The Professional." You might have heard of him. He started out doing the little neighborhood DJ thing in the early 90s. He was able to get the best new exclusive cuts, and word spread through Queens and into Brooklyn, and so on, all over the galaxy it seems like.

If you ever hear a mix-tape and it professes to be the hottest thing on the streets and you don't hear him exclaim "CLUE!!!" every three minutes like a madman then go back to whomever you bought it from, and demand your loot back, because he jipped you.

Biggie Smalls aka the Notorious B.I.G. was introduced on a Clue tape before Puffy Combs put him on and made him get jiggy with it,

and created that horrible soft pop/rap monstrosity called Bad Boy, but that's neither here nor there. Clue signed to Roc-A-Fella, which ought to tell you something. Jay-Z, label head and CEO, just got done blazing the last half of 1998 with a gang of hit singles.

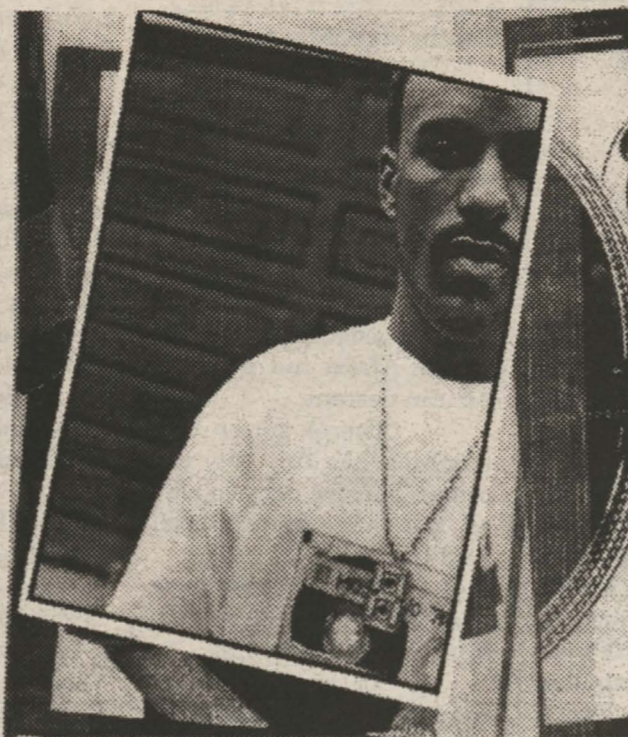
Let me say right now, sorry, there is no R&B on this, not even the BBD kind. None of that. This CD is strictly East Coast oriented hip hop, the kind Tupac warned you about.

There is no remix with K-Ci and JoJo, thank Jah. Montell Jordan didn't contribute anything.

I wish Adina Howard would have dropped that "T-Shirt and Panties" joint on here, but that was not to be, and its no less a banger for the exclusion. And to all my No Limit/Rap-a-Lot compilation tapeholders, all my Juveniles, Mia X's, and Willie D's, my Southern reality rap fans, playing pool saying "Unngggghh" while they do the Southside, dont drop your coffee. YALL WILL BE DISAPPOINTED, TOO!!!

So, who's on it, you say? Sean Combs (man, somebody please tell that cat the name is bunk! And Puff Daddy is wacker. Let's not talk about "P-Diddy," that makes me say "unnnngggghhhhh") and

Rock-a-Fella 'wiz-kid' blazes charts, smashes competition



Rock-A-Fella recording artist DJ Clue

picture courtesy of Rock-A-Fella Records

Like Redman said: "Whatever, man." Oh yeah, there's one called "Fantastic Four", a posse cut with Cam'ron, Big Pun, Noriaga (WHAT WHAT!!), and the man Canibus who rips it with a verse that had me pressing rewind over and over, thinking "What did the brother say?!"

The nicest track has to be "Gangsta" by Jay-Z and that skinny dude off "Can I get a...". Incredible. Jay always brings heat to whatever he does, but he goes above and beyond the call of duty on this one.

his mumble-mouth, Armani wearing homie, Mase. Yes, they are horrible, so I got them out of the way first.

Jigga is the best mix of commercial and underground right now. He's not Tupac, but he's close. There's one line where Jay tells some wannabe hustler that's as soft as spongecake "not to quit his day job..." I almost died laughing.

Foxy Kim, I mean Lil Brown, I mean Foxy Brown (Sorry, I get them confused) as usual makes me want to see her in person, see if she'll live up to what she says she's all about. Two weeks in my camp, and I'll have her looking sleek again. (Memo to Def Jam: If the artist demands to wear a pleather bikini bottom and hubcaps for a bra, and then show up 25 pounds over weight for the video shoot get her in some Tae Bo classes QUICK!) Redman heats one up. Missy laid it down, as

usual, with that disjointed, confused, slightly inebriated flow. But whatever it is, I like it!! I like it!! Lord Tariq, Mobb Depp, and Raekwon rap about a paper bag, Mr. Rogers, the Teletubbies, and all that mess. Everybody is on this one. How do I say it, this CD is HOT TO DEATH!!!

On my scale of judgement of 0 - 4, with 0 being a penniless freshman in Drew Hall and 4 being a graduate student working that internship at NASA, trying to get a house by the lake (any lake), this one rates a 3.1. I took off .15 every time one of these cats rhymed thugs and drugs, and that dropped it to 2.3333 some thing, but I added .8 points when the CD ended and I realized that not one rapper had even said "I'm bout it," "I'm rowdy" or any other No Limit-ism.

You want to disagree with me? You think I'm a genius? You think my opinion sucks? You think I'm one of those people that killed Kenny? Don't just screwface me when you see me walk by, (I'm the one laughing at all these cats with the shiny jeans that are tight around the ankles of their Nikes). Express yourself, you can get back at me by writing to the paper. Conversation rules the nation, remember that one? And on that note, I'm jet. Til next time, remember my motto: "Just cuz I hate you, don't mean you're a player." Peace.

By John Cook
Staff Writer

Nice try, but *Flesh of My Flesh...* makes flesh crawl



Def Jam recording artist DMX

picture courtesy of Def Jam Records

them" which exploded with lyrics that made the whole crowd jump to their feet with the phrase, "Stop, Drop, Shutem down..." and you know the rest.

The cover of *Flesh of My Flesh, Blood of My Blood* gets my attention and gives me a stomachache, but it did make me wonder why he is covered with red paint to imitate blood. Unlike those great solo hits on his first album, his second CD doesn't seem to stand up.

The song I particularly like is "No Love 4 Me" featuring Swizz & Drag-on. I was feeling "Coming From" featuring Mary J. Blige, and of course "Blackout" featuring LOX & Jay-Z. But that is just four songs out of 16 that I don't care to repeat on my CD player. Other than his album cover, his songs don't leave a mark on my mind like the first CD that is still getting play. DMX's voice and style is unparalleled by any other rapper out today.

DMX should have spent more time on *Flesh of My Flesh, Blood of My Blood*, so it would be worthy of my award for being the number one CD. However, I have to

give a hand to him for working so hard for his fans to give words of the trials and tribulations he has seen.

The CD is one to keep in the CD changer in your car while cruising on the streets, and if you take the time to listen to his words you may hear one or two positive notes that could change your mind about the way you live your life. His CD is good, but not good enough to rush out to the stores and pay \$20. Dubbing is my advice.

DMX's latest battle is over not receiving a Grammy nomination, sparking controversy with fans and other artists who feel he should get some kind of recognition for all his work.

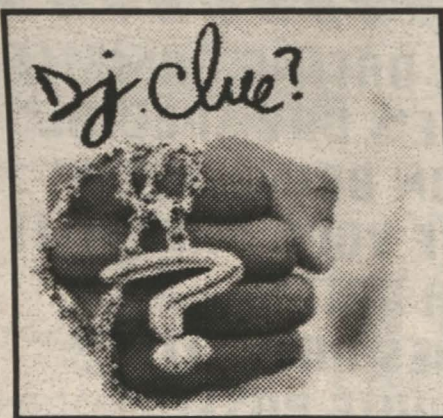
Unlike other rappers on the Def Jam label, DMX brings his own identity to the table to make young and old bounce their heads. The new CD is good, and, as always, his lyrics make you want to rap aloud. On the Def Jam web site, DMX said, "I love to express what real niggas feel, what street niggas feel. They need to be heard. They need to know there is a voice that speaks for them and I am that voice."

By LaToya Moore
Staff Writer

20 Questions

1. Is President Hines going to address the students *this* semester?
2. Why is the *Bookstore* always out of books?
3. Why are some students still trying to register?
4. When will the freshmen get to experience their first "HumpDay on the Hill"?
5. When we won the football game, why didn't we tear down the whole stadium so that we could get a new one?
6. Speaking of "The Win," why is PV now known as the school that can only win one football game?
7. Why do we drink bottled water, but make Kool-Aid with tapwater?
8. How "new" is the New Gym?
9. Why did half of the female students come back with children this semester?
10. Why is the band still catching heat from "The Fall Brawl?"
11. Are they trying to renovate the campus for us or them?
12. Are we next?
13. Why is everyone walking around singing those Old Navy commercials?
14. Why do people spend more time looking at the ScreenSavers than working?
15. Why are all parties held at the Newman Center exactly the same?
16. Is that new show "The P.J.'s" Eddie Murphy's lame attempt to save a dying career?
17. Why is every Greek organization having a "Dating Game" for Valentine's Day?
18. Why did it take three weeks to build Phase III, but eight months to build the Community Center?
19. What genius, and we use that term loosely, discovered the Southside Fade?
20. And finally, what do you think?

We want to know what you think. Please submit any question you may have to The Panther, Rm. 114 in the bottom of the MSC. Questions are printed upon discretion of The Panther.



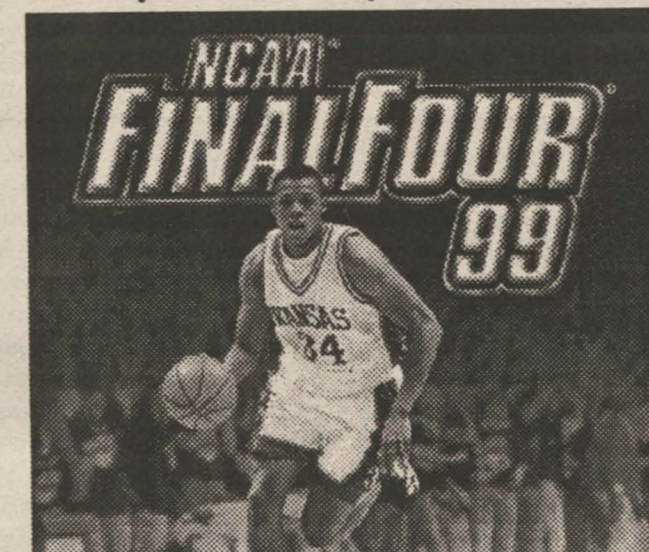
45 **PICK-A-FLICK** KOMES LAIGSSN IETTLL TCIY

The first nine people to correctly unscramble the three movies above will win a video of their choice courtesy of Mirimax Home Entertainment. Claim your prize by bringing the correct answers and this issue of the paper to *The Panther* office in the bottom of the MSC, room 114.

PHAT DIME The Panther's current top ten in no particular order

- "Changes" Tupac Shakur
- "Miami" Will Smith
- "Hot Spot" Foxy Brown
- "I Will Get There" Boyz II Men
- "Kenny's Dead" Master P f/ Isaac Hayes
- "Ex-Factor" Lauryn Hill
- "Slippin'" DMX
- "Talk Show Shhh" Shae Jones
- "Judgement Day" Method Man
- "Taking Everything" (remix) Gerald Levert f/ Antoinette Roberson

Win a FREE copy of NCAA Final Four '99 for your PlayStation!!!



**Come to MSC Room 114 to answer sports trivia and win!

Vacancy Notice

Drama Majors Wanted



By **Brad Ruffin**
Sports Editor

Now Hiring...
Wanted: one professional basketball superstar. Experience necessary. Poise, grace, skill, hard working, and marketable image a must... Any takers, Hakeem, Karl, Shaquille, Kobe, Grant, Anfernee? Great company, upwardly mobile, great travel, and outside endorsement opportunities available. Send applications to NBA care of Commissioner David Stern.

While taking a lengthy look at itself in the mirror, the NBA shouldn't be worried about the after effects of Michael's retirement, or post-lockout repair. The fact is, "His Airness" is gone. Overtime, the players and a good public relations department will fix the lock-out damage. The NBA should concentrate on a player or players to simply speed the process. The question is, who? Are there any current players who could be considered the elite of the elite? Perhaps the next "chosen one," hasn't entered the NBA yet. Perhaps the NBA has an impossible vacancy to fill. It could be argued that the above mentioned names are in the top 10 percent of players in the NBA, but none of them equal or even come close to having Jordan's talent. The NBA, the fans, and the media need to stop looking for a replacement, and work with what they have.

What happened to the great rivalries? In the past, fans have been treated to classic battles such as Lakers vs. Celtics, Pistons vs. Bulls, and Mavericks vs. Spurs... Well, maybe not that last one. That might not be a heated battle, it might not even be a basketball game, but that's the problem. There's potential to develop rivalries everywhere. States with more

than one NBA team should develop in state rivalries. Old rivals should become reacquainted. For example, the expansion teams have a perfect motive to develop intense match-ups. Toronto and Vancouver should be at each others throats for Canadian bragging rights. New York should still be upset that Pat Riley left the Knicks for Miami. Whether rivalries are manufactured or develop naturally, teams need to give fans more than just a basketball game. One pound of trash talking, sprinkled with in-state bragging rights, deep fried in finger pointing, served hot with personal motive, equals an awesome rivalry! The media could indirectly assist in cultivating and promoting these rivalries as well.

If anything, Michael Jordan's retirement levels the playing field of the NBA. The talent in the NBA is good and getting better. Everyone must realize that Michael was the exception to the rule. In future NBA seasons, the games will be more enjoyable for the fans, provide closer competition between teams, and perhaps have more than one legitimate championship contender. All of these things equal needed drama for the NBA. When Chicago looks into its rear view mirror, it'll likely see three or four rabid teams chasing after their title...and gaining.

Only some of these things mentioned may develop this season, but with time and developing talent, NBA fans will be treated with action filled games, new rivalries, and closer scores. To end this seasons lockout, the player's union and the NBA owners agreed to a new six year deal. Excluding this season, that means that we (the fans) will have until 2006 to witness new teams win championships, and see new talent enter the league. If you prefer the pessimistic approach, then you only have six more years until the next NBA lockout. Besides, isn't there always ice hockey ???

Makin' Moves



Photo by Gitonga M'Mbilijewe

Prairie View's Sylvester Lilly drives past a Jackson State defender during a recent game.

Working the Greens

Prairie View welcomes new golf coach

By **Donald Kelger**
Staff Writer

PVAMU is proud to announce that it has a new face on the yard, an individual who has been around for many years, but now he's on our side, "The Panthers Squad."
Many of you are maybe wondering who's new among so many unfamiliar faces, the new person is the Head Golf Coach, Vernon Perry.

Coach Perry has a very profound history. He played ten years with the former Houston Oilers.

Perry said, "It was a very great experience."
Coach Perry said our football program attracted him toward this university, and hopes he'd become a part of the coaching staff here at PVAMU.

Coach Perry is originally from Jackson, Miss. and he also attended Jackson State University.

"College was fun, a very enjoyable experience," said Perry.

The focus of the coach is to acquire a competitive, winning golf team.

This is a major con

cern of the new coach.

He stated that his previous coaching position was very successful, as they were involved in winning games.

Perry said he would highly favor that pattern and through influence create a golf squad that's prominent and very competitive in the future.

Coach Perry, said he will strongly encourage his players to become good team leaders, and individuals who are positive in nature.

He stated that he desires them to be good students in school.

Individuals who indulged themselves in those endeavors are defined as positive in the matrix of life.

It's very fortunate that as a student body we have an individual who acknowledges the act of diligence, and encourages people to be industrious in society.

In addition to setting proper priorities, Perry said he'll insist that his players become role models.

Individuals who can be well respected in the various aspects of life.

"Focusing on goals is also very important" said Coach Perry.

When sports are mentioned in conversations, schools, sports bars, or any type of environment where male bonding is taking place, football, basketball, and baseball are the primary response in today's society.

Coach Perry as a child was neither introduced to the game, and also didn't have the knowledge to operate efficiently in the realm of golf.

His evolved after retiring from the game of professional Football.

Similar to many of us whose first love is football or basketball, but must give up the game after a while, his football career exhausted itself, and he realized that he liked the game of golf.

As the years escalated, Coach Perry became familiar with golf and its purpose, therefore, a large quantity of interest derived, and golf became his fancy.

Finally, to carry out, and to act upon so many great tasks that are presented on a daily basis, Coach Perry was asked if there are any particular faithful sayings, or proverbs used to promote self esteem, and character.

Coach Perry kept it simple and stated "Always Think Positive."

Great Expectations lead to winning season



By **Sheleah Hughes**
News Editor

Great Expectations can describe the upcoming '99 baseball season.

With the addition of strong freshmen, transfers and a new team bond, nothing else could be expected in the new rebuilding season.

"You always have to expect a win," Coach John Tankersley said. "When you play solid foundation baseball and have hard workers who want to win, nothing else should come."

With this attitude, the Panthers head into the schedule geared to win.

Lamar University, out of Beaumont, TX, will be the first opponent for the Panthers. The game is scheduled for Feb 7 here in Prairie View.

This game will give the pitching staff, which includes sophomores Micheal Wesley, Jr. Brandon McNair and others, an opportunity to warm-up for the rest of the season.

As with pitchers, catchers also play a crucial role in the game. With expe-

rienced upperclassmen such as Rosh Handley and Willard Joiner in the backstop, new member Demond Duke will have an excellent chance to be led and trained.

"For the first time in a while we have three solid catchers who can play whenever called upon," said Joiner.

The Lamar game will also be a learning experience for other players like Ernest Jackson who will be playing shortstop.

Jackson, who was red-shirted as a freshman, will aid the Panthers in the infield and will also add speed to the team.

The outfield should lead the defensive efforts and be among the best in the SWAC led by senior, centerfielder D'Waylon Crosby, sophomore, left-fielder Brent Watson, and sophomore, right-fielder Armid Hill. These strengths will lead to wins in important games such as Huston Tillotson (Feb. 12 at Prairie View), backyard rival Texas Southern (Feb. 2 and 28 at Prairie View) and other SWAC contenders.

"We have the manpower, hitting team, pitching and experience to beat both Texas Southern and multi-year conference cham-

Ex-SFA star Price dies in apparent suicide

Associated Press

NACOGDOCHES - Katrina Price, a former basketball star at Stephen F. Austin whose professional career was set back when the American Basketball League folded last month, apparently committed suicide Monday.

Police responding to a 911 call just before 7 a.m. found her dead of an apparent gunshot wound in the hallway of her sister Lucy's apartment.

Police Sgt. Paul Peterson said the case is being investigated as a homicide because there were no witnesses, but officers believe it will be ruled a suicide.

"There were no signs

of a struggle and there appeared to be a shotgun lying under the body, which would tend to lead us toward that conclusion," Peterson said.

Price, 23, was a third team All-American last season when she averaged 22.1 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. The 5-10 guard was the Ladyjacks all time leading scorer with 2,278 points.

"We are all devastated," said SFA athletics director Steve McCarty. "Every member on that team either played with Katrina last season or knew of her. The Ladyjacks are a family, and that thread of faith and belief in one another is what bonds and holds us together in tough times."

The Long Beach

In the Sports Spotlight Tenopra Sheppard



Tenopra Sheppard moves the ball up the floor to put the Panthers on the offensive.

"If we win the rest of our games, we should finish 4th or 5th seed for the SWAC tournament."

Ten Sheppard

Height:
5'6"

Hometown:
Norman, MS

Age:
21-years-old

Her Fantasy Dinner:
Keyshawn Johnson
Brian McKnight
Tyrese

Position:
Point Guard

Personal Best:
The game this season where she scored 23 pts.

Favorite Junk Food:
"I like everything."

Major:
Agriculture Economics

Softball team heads into season

By **Will Joyner**
Panther Staff

Although softball is starting its third year as a sport at Prairie View, it has already founded a rich history. Last year's 29-11 team became the Western Division and Southwestern Athletic Conference Champions (SWAC).

With six returning players including new additions made during the off-season, the team is sure to make a run at a repeat.

"We have a real good team on paper and should be one of the teams to beat," said head coach A.D. James Jr.

This year the winner of the S.W.A.C. tournament will play the champions of the Big East Conference for the right to reach the N.C.A.A. Tournament.

This team is equipped with two solid pitchers as Leslie West is now joined by Kimberly Thomas.

They will play their first home game against Sam Houston State University on Feb 25th.

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CAMPUS NEWS

In Brief

Students provided with important dates

Prairie View, Texas

Students are reminded to keep in mind several important dates for the remainder of the semester.
 Jan. 26 - Administrative course changes end.
 Feb. 8 - Registration (classes) cancelled for nonpayment of tuition and fees-- dropped from enrollment and last day to withdraw from courses without record.
 Feb. 9 - Automatic grade of "W" begins.
 Feb. 12 - Second fee installment due.
 Feb. 15 - Last day to apply for Spring 99 graduation.
 For more information, refer to the Spring 99 schedule of classes publication.

College of business holds career fair

Prairie View, Texas

The College of Business at Prairie View A&M University will host a Career Fair on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 1999. The career fair begins at 9 a.m. and will last until 3 p.m. in Hobart Taylor. All students are welcome. For more information contact the College of Business at ext. 4310.

Spring registration breaks record

Prairie View, Texas

At the closing of the Spring 1999 registration period on Saturday, Jan. 16, 1999, 6,138 students had enrolled for the semester. 64% of those students were in a "paid" status. It seems as if Prairie View A&M University is on its way to what may be a record enrollment for a spring semester. The reported enrollment for the 20th class day was 5,996; last spring 5,841 students were reported on the 12th class day and 5,608 on the 20th class day. PVAMU's goal is to do as much as possible, legally and fiscally, to get more students in a "paid" status before the 12th class day (Wednesday, Jan. 27, 1999) and the mandatory dis-enrollment (drop) day of Feb. 8, 1999.

Financial Aid applications for the 1999 - 2000 school year are now available in the Financial Aid Office located on the second floor of Evans Hall.

COMING ATTRACTIONS!

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	30
PV vs Alabama State (basketball) 7:30	Administration Course Changes End Panther, Student Newspaper Meeting 5:30 p.m.	12th Class Day CAB Movie Night College of Business Career Fair Hobart Taylor 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	CAB Pep Rally	Indoor Track Meet University of Houston	PV vs. TSU (basketball)

The Piggy Bank



Scholarship and Internship information

The LAGRANT Foundation for Communications and business

Deadline: March 31, 1999
Eligibility: 10 scholarships to college and graduating high school minority students pursuing a degree in the fields of communications and business administration including public relations, journalism (with an emphasis in public relations only), marketing and advertising.
 Fax: (323) 469-8683
 Tel: (323) 469-8680
 911 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2150
 Los Angeles, CA 90017-3450

Pulliam Journalism Fellowships
 Deadline: March 1, 1999
Eligibility: Graduates applicants must receive their bachelor degrees during the academic year that precedes the summer fellowships

Any Majors: Interested in international health and development contact: Linda Berauer, Manager Program Development Population Fellows Programs (734)764-8274
 www.hbcu.pop@umich.edu
 Deadline: Feb. 1, 1999

Paul R. Ellis Media Award
 Deadline: March 19, 1999
Eligibility: all students American Heart Association, Texas Affiliate Attn: Communications Department P.O. Box 15186, 1700 Rutherford Lane Austin, TX 78761

Hearst Newspapers Journalism Fellowship
Eligibility: all students
 Deadline: unspecified
 Hearst Newspapers Journalism Fellowship Program
 801 Texas Avenue Houston, Texas 77002

March from page 1

exclaimed as the crowd marched on. Once the journey to the park was completed, a short program was performed. It featured a moving rendition of one of King's most famous speeches by a fellow brother. Afterwards, it was jubilee, fun and fellowship for all. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken were grilled up for a finger-licking lunch. Red and orange kool-aid chilled the thirsts of many, while chips and beans garnished plates. As the DJ cranked the music, the party began. The fraternities and sororities strutted their stuff and a good time was had by all.

Fine from page 1

penditures are programmed a year in advance," said President Charles Hines. "We did not program a \$31,000 loss due to a fine. As such, we now must raise an additional \$31,000 or cut other athletic expenses. Because of the fine and a suppressed income from our Grambling-Prairie View football game,

COMIC RELIEF

certain cut backs had to be made in our athletics programs. Some recruiting was cut due to these losses in revenue," Hines said. In addition to the \$31,000 fine, the SWAC is also asking that PVAMU "support the letter and spirit of the SWAC Constitution and By-laws, support good sportsmanship and academics and work with all SWAC members in pursuing the values and ideals of the SWAC." Southern University band and the Marching Storm submitted their individual investigations to the SWAC, but

the situation was never investigated by a third party. Without such an investigation, no actual blame for the fight was established. "We (PVAMU) did not participate in the incident (fight)," said Hines. "All we've ever asked for an even exchange of evidence." Although security is the responsibility of the home team, more security guards are made available for those games with large crowds, such as the PVAMU vs. Texas Southern University basketball games. The fight, labeled by

media sources as "The Battle of the Bands," began this drawn out incident September 1998. Following the fight, both groups were suspended from playing the two games immediately following the incident. For the Panthers, the suspension would have included the Cotton Bowl Classic in Dallas, Texas and a loss of \$80,000 due to contracts. Hines said, "The PVAMU band and students did nothing wrong. This incident is not of their making. It finally came down to losing \$31,000 instead of \$80,000."

MAGIC MAZE

RELATIVE POSITIONS

HEBYVSQWNKHTEBY
 WTROADJOININGLJ
 GEBYWURLRPNEKDI
 GDBZXVSEQOMCRKI
 GECAYWUBHSAOPNY
 LJHFECRRATWJEB
 YXRVUSEGQPRDRTW
 PNMAKTDNUORAUD
 JHFEFCNOBZEYFOI
 KXVUATAOMDNIHEBM
 RQPOMLYAKEVOBAI

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

About: Above, Adjacent, Adjoining
 Mar: After, Among, Around
 Before: Behind, Below, Farther
 Nearby: Upward, Yonder

Panther Comics

The Answers are located in the Classified Section

HOCUS-FOCUS

"Just Chillin" BY: Quincy Higgins

2nd SEMESTER REGISTRATION... MAN I CAN'T WAIT FOR SCHOOL TO START.
 LAST SEMESTER I MADE A LOT OF MISTAKES... BUT THIS TIME I'M GONNA START THINGS OFF RIGHT.
 I'M SORRY SIR, BUT THE COMPUTER SAYS THAT YOU'RE ON ACADEMIC SUSPENSION!
 THAT MEANS YOU'RE KICKED OUT OF SCHOOL.
 I HATE TO ADMIT IT BUT I ACTUALLY MISSED COLLEGE LIFE.
 I KNOW THAT'S MUCH!!!

MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT

OH, MAN! MY FEET ARE FREEZING!!!
 HEY! LOOK TYRELL, THERE'S A FOOT WARMER IN THE CLOSET!
 RAAAAHHH!!!
 MY FOOD WARMER!!!

KING CROSSWORD

ACROSS	1 Remove one's cap	5 Pea's place	8 "Waterloo" quartet	12 Eerie glow	13 Nest egg acct.	14 - Bones from Sleepy Hollow	15 "A Woman of Substance" author	17 Hindu princess	18 Aft	19 Coat with flour	21 Expected	22 Nays' cancelers	23 Skilled stock dealer: abbr.	26 Comprehend	28 Pale	31 Actress Helgen-Berger	33 Seance noise	35 Senorita's sandwich	36 Vigilant	38 Mad-money hiding place	40 "Holy mackerel!"	41 Act	43 Zsa Zsa's sis	45 Peanut butter							
DOWN	1 "The Aba-Honey-moon"	2 What we share	3 Brothers'	4 Slowly disappeared	5 Initiate	6 Stick figure?	7 Pop	8 Side by side	9 QB nicknamed "Ozark Ike"	10 Hookah variety	11 Grenoble girlfriend	16 '60s dance	20 "The Crying Game" star	23 Early hrs.	24 "Go, team, go!"	25 Tom, Ed. Bill and Omar	27 Check	29 Habitat, in combinations	30 Without further ado	32 Lubricates	34 Get set	37 Favorite	39 Enthusiastic	42 Credit-card problems	44 Up	45 Two before Leno	46 Additionally	48 Cylinder	49 - Stanley Gardner	50 Turned blue, maybe	53 Wade opponent

THE FINAL WORD

University gets undeserved criticism from students

By Bridget L. McGowen
Special to the Panther

It seems as if I hear more complaints and adverse commentary about our university than it actually deserves. I will admit that every aspect of our institution is not perfect as are its constituents.

Possibly, the recipient of the most criticism is the Office of Student Financial Services, the office most responsible for enabling students to attend Prairie View A&M Uni-

versity (PVAMU). The primary purpose of this office is to provide resources to those students who would otherwise be unable to pursue a post-secondary education. It is not responsible for providing the total sum of funds needed to finance a student's education. It is there to aid in paying tuition.

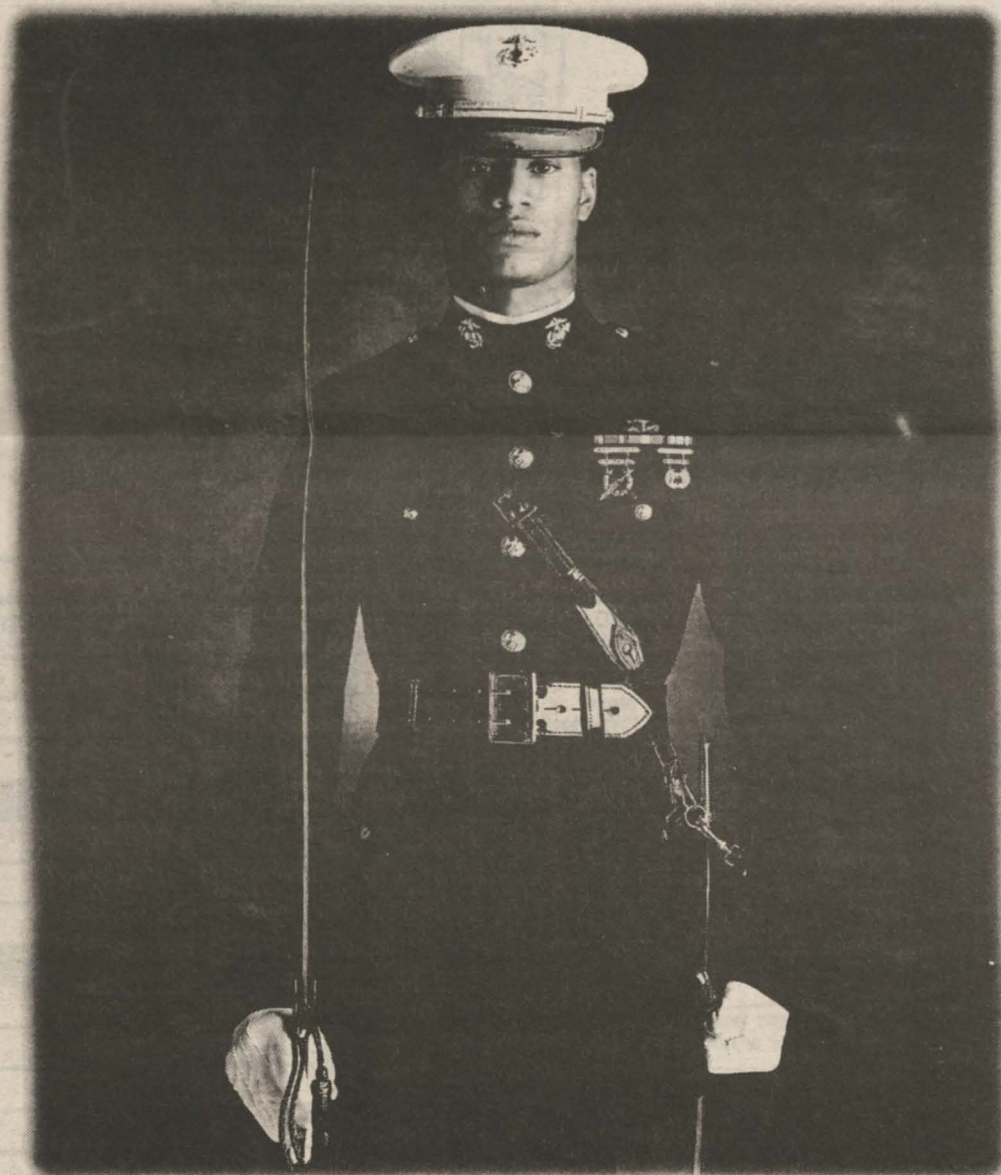
The fact is, more than \$30 million has been awarded to students by the PVAMU Office of Student Financial Services thus far this year. Nearly 4000 students are recipients of grants, scholarships, work study, and loans for the 1998-99 academic year. This is up from last year's awarding of \$25 million to over 4500 students.

"PVAMU has a long record of providing a 'financial way out of no way' for thousands of students who otherwise would not be able to realize the 'dream' and hope for a college education," said Ronald E. Jones, Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services. "When you deal with people and money, criticisms are to be expected. Unfortunately and unfairly, there is too much criticism and not enough kudos. PVAMU has one of the top financial aid programs of all Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and will get even better as more enhancements are in place and students do what they are asked to do in terms of adhering to application deadlines, satisfactory academic progress, et cetera."

The complaints do not stop at financial aid, though. No-one residing in the University Village, especially with a full kitchen, seems to be pleased with the meal plan that appears to be "imposed" upon them by Sodexho Marriot.

The truth is, it is the university's policy that students living on campus will participate in the board plan. Graduate students are given an option of whether they want to participate in the board plan since they are a different student

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"There must be something you love about Pantherland!"

-Bridget L. McGowen

population and are normally considered as commuters. A second reason for the meal plan tends to be a bit more complex.

This next justification for charging on campus students with a meal plan stems from financial aid. Yes, financial aid. Over 75% of students enrolled at PVAMU are receiving some type of financial aid. Meals and lodging are paid for by that entity. If the meal plan is removed from the student's list of itemized fees, then PVAMU will not receive federal funding to award money to students to pay for the cost of their meals. In a sense, you, the student, are left holding the bill.

"Since there is such a large number of our students who rely upon financial aid, then we have to provide for the majority," said Fred Washington, Director of Auxiliary Services.

Perhaps the rules may seem unfair or the policies tend to make no sense at times. It can appear as if you are fighting a losing battle. At the same time, complaining without taking action really benefits no one. Actually, it can be detrimental.

If something does not quite add up, then it is a good idea to make inquiries. Get a clear understanding; ask the right questions of the right person or office.

"That's communicating and staying informed," said Jones.

Unfortunately, but honestly, one person's opinions and research will not change all of the negative views of PVAMU into positive ones.

Sure, there are many who are not madly in love with our prestigious university, but many of you did choose PVAMU as the institution at which to continue your education.

There must be something you love about Pantherland!