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The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

THE PANTHER

panther@pvamu.edu · Volume 78, Issue 21 · April 6, 2001

Turning back the hands of time



Panther photo files

PVAMU alumna Katrice Offord, former *Ebony* Fashion Fair model, has returned to Prairie View to provide contestant development for Miss Prairie View contestants. This year's pageant will be held on April 19 in conjunction with the Mr. Prairie View pageant.

Civil rights settlement awards \$98 million

Monies strengthen university operations, recruitment

By Felicia Walker
News Editor

In an attempt to equal the playing field of educational opportunity between Prairie View A&M University and sister school, Texas A&M University, the Office of Civil Rights granted the University a settlement of \$98 million for instructional and operational support.

Prairie View A&M University President Charles Hines held a meeting yesterday with all University employees to discuss the settlement and other university facts and changes.

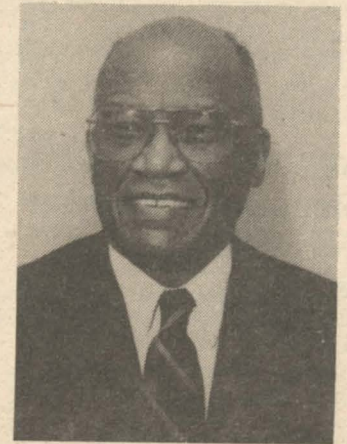
"Our fate is in our hands. It is only there if we change how we do business,"

Hines said. "The only reason we are here is to produce outstanding graduates, fully prepared and confident to enter the world of work."

In the case of the United States vs. the State of Texas, President Hines drafted a \$500 million proposal of items the University needed for enhancement.

The proposal was then sent to a committee of legislators and state representatives to create the Texas Commitment-OCR Priority Plan to enhance programs, systems, and the recruitment, retention and graduation of students.

Set to begin during fiscal year 2003 until 2005, OCR funding will be awarded to the College of Nursing to build a



Charles A. Hines,
University President

state of the art nursing building.

OCR funding will also

See OCR on Page 8

Housing prices still on the rise

By Tandy Lemmon
Panther Staff

The rumor that the price of privatized housing is increasing is no longer hearsay, nor a surprise.

Since 1996, when American Campus Communities, a company that specializes in campus housing on college campuses, built the first phase of University Village at PVAMU, the cost has increased each year.

Then it was \$2300 per school year and now (for this academic year) it is \$2872 for the same duration of time.

According to Yvette Barker, General Manager of University Village I, II, III and University College, price increases cover business overhead, cost of maintenance, rising energy costs and other costs that increase annually.

Next year's increase will range between 4.1 percent and 4.3 percent.

Phase I and II four bedroom apartments received a 4.1 and 4.3 percent increase, respectively, making them as much as \$373 a month.

Students who choose to live in a two bedroom in University Village will pay \$421 a month.

Those who choose Phase III had a 4.2 percent increase making four bedrooms

See VILLAGE on Page 8

Race forces team to find funds

By Kalyn Bullock
Managing Editor

Students of the American Society of Civil Engineers participated in the annual Texas/Mexico Region Concrete Competition in San Antonio, Texas last weekend.

This competition allowed the students to come together as a team to build a canoe and race it against other top engineering schools in the Southwest district.

Prairie View A&M University was the only HBCU to participate among other Texas and Mexico colleges and universities.



See CANOE on Page 8

Volunteerism bill proposed by state representative

By Sheleah Hughes
Editor-in-Chief

A bill proposed by a Texas state representative will attempt to make college students better

people.

Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, drew up the proposal to require all students at state universities to do 40 hours of community service to earn

their baccalaureate degrees and 28 hours to earn an associate degree.

This requirement, if passed, would affect students who will be attending school

this incoming fall semester.

According to Gallego, House Bill 791 was drawn up because he believes that students should leave college with a better sense of citizenship

and community spirit.

PVAMU student Shandon Neal agrees.

"As we move to a technological society, it is important. See LAW on Page 8

In This Issue

290 Construction.... see Page 4

Softball Queens..... See Page 6

Return of TuPac.... see Page 7

•World•

Archeologists discover mummy

Cairo, Egypt

AP-Archeologists have discovered a mummy decorated with 100 golden amulets of the wife of an Egyptian ruler in the Western Desert more than 2,500 years ago, the Supreme Council of Antiquities said.

The mummy is of Naas, the wife of Jad Khensu Eyuf, who ruled the Bahariya Oasis during the period of Pharaoh Ahmose II from 570 to 526 B.C., Minister of Culture Farouk Hosni said in a statement Tuesday.

Angolan separatists release one hostage

Lisbon, Portugal

AP-An armed group that has held three Portuguese hostages in an Angolan enclave for nearly a year released one of the men on Tuesday, the Portuguese government said.

The separatist group FLEC-FAC kidnapped the three men last May in the oil-rich enclave in Cabinda, a wedge between the Congo and the Republic of Congo. Another five Portuguese men were kidnapped last month by a different group, called FLEC-Renovada. Both groups are fighting for independence for Cabinda.

Angry Kenyans dig for bodies

Sabaki, Kenya

AP-Frustrated by the failure of authorities to raise two buses from a river into which they plunged two days ago, dozens of young Kenyans waded into the swirling Sabaki on Tuesday, digging furiously with their hands and shovels to get to the bodies.

Ali Rashid, one of those digging, said some bodies had been located, but they were buried in silt.

Minister lashes out at EU criticism

Johannesburg, South Africa

AP-In a letter accusing a European Union delegation of making a "condemnatory public statement" about South Africa's handling of the AIDS crisis, South Africa's Health Minister, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, defended the country's prevention efforts.

The letter, dated March 29 but released to media Tuesday, criticized statements made by an EU delegation that visited South Africa in late March.

•National•

Temple student sentenced for calls

Doylestown, Pa.

AP-A department store security guard, who was also a Temple University student, was sentenced to 10 to 23 months in prison after pleading guilty to making hundreds of phone calls to female students at Delaware Valley College.

Paul Soong Lee, 26, of Northampton, repeatedly told a Bucks County judge that he was trying to get a date.

The Delaware Valley College students said that they were frightened by the incessant calls which sometimes numbered 50 in one night.

Muscatine man abuses runaway

Muscatine, Iowa

AP-A Muscatine man is accused of having an improper relationship with a 15-year-old Illinois runaway.

William Brad Swain, 35, is charged with third-degree sexual abuse following a lengthy investigation.

Police said officials with the FBI arrested Swain in Ontario, Calif., on March 6 when they alerted Muscatine police. The girl and Swain fled shortly afterward to avoid prosecution, police said.

Manassas man crashes plane

Paris, Va.

AP-A Manassas man survived a night on a north-west Virginia mountain after crashing his plane into a tree.

The pilot of the plane died Sunday, several hours after search teams found him and the wreckage of his plane on Paris Mountain, Virginia State Police said.

Police had not released the victim's name.

Officer charged with false swearing

Williamson, W. Va.

AP-A Williamson patrolman has been charged with false swearing.

Michael T. Barnes was arrested Friday by Chief Roby Pope and Lt. W.E. Looney and taken before Chief Magistrate Dee Sidebottom. He was released on a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond.

The charge stems from a complaint filed by Robin Maynard alleging false arrest.

Pope said Barnes filed a false criminal complaint against Maynard, charging her with driving under suspension and failure to stop.

•Regional•

Wells may, may not produce gas

Houston, Texas

AP-Natural gas drillers are finding that digging more wells doesn't necessarily translate into more gas, a Houston-based investment bank's study says.

The study by Simmons & Company International says gas production by the nation's 21 largest publicly traded exploration companies hasn't increased even though drilling has increased by 50 percent in the last year.

Television station receives videotape

Houston, Texas

AP-A television station has received a copy of a videotape that police say could aid an investigation of the rape of a teen-ager on Crystal Beach during spring break.

Mike Devlin, news director of KHOU-Channel 11 in Houston, told The Associated Press on Sunday that the station received the tape Friday night. He said the 18-year-old victim's parents confirmed Saturday that she was the young woman on the 50-second tape.

Jarret grabs Texas victory

Fort Worth, Texas

AP-Dale Jarrett raced from sixth place to the lead in 13 laps Sunday, passing gambling Johnny Benson and pulling away to win the Harrah's 500 at Texas Motor Speedway.

The NASCAR Winston Cup points leader had been racing at or near the front throughout the 334-lap event, but sloped from second to sixth during the final pit when he took four tires while most driver's put on two.

Discount stores growing popular

McAllen, Texas

AP-Dollar discount stores are finding a profitable niche in many Rio Grande Valley communities.

With low overhead costs and a loyal base of low-income, elderly and Hispanic shoppers, the nation's top five dollar store chains generated sales of \$8.83 billion in 1999, according to figures from the National Retail Federation.

Dollar stores typically are housed in strip malls in middle- and low-income neighborhoods. They carry basic household goods like baby food, clothes hangers and plastic cups.

Calendar of events

6 Friday

Pick up your copy of The Panther

7-8 Sat./Sun.

Zeta Phi Beta recreational day, Student Park, Prairie View, TX, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Alpha Lambda Omega seminar, Panther Room, Prairie View, TX, 3 p.m.

9 Monday

Army recruiting mission, Alumni, Prairie View, TX, 11 a.m.

10 Tuesday

Panther Meeting, Harrington Science Bldg. Rm 105, Prairie View, TX, 5:30 p.m.
Club Flava Fashion Premier 2001, Animal Industries Auditorium, Prairie View, TX, 7:30 p.m.
Dress for Success, Hobart Taylor, room 1c129, Prairie View, TX, 6:45 p.m.

11 Wednesday

Toastmasters elections, Hobart Taylor, Prairie View, TX, 5 p.m.
Baby Blues, Library, Prairie View, TX, 7:20 p.m.

12 Thursday

BET Hits, Alumni Hall, Prairie View, TX

Advertise in The PANTHER

SGA Election Results

- President.....Ronnie Davis
- Vice President.....Bridget Dew
- Excutive Secretary.....Lindsey Keys
- Recording Secretary.....Jemyre Lennon
- Comptroller.....Ashley White
- VP- Academic Affairs.....Nathan Walker
- Senator-School of Architecture.....James Sanders

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Sat.: 8:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.

SEEING DOUBLE

**Cloning surpasses sheep, goats
Humans next on scientific agenda**



By Sheleah Hughes
Editor-in-Chief

Having a clone could be a decent idea. With one person in two different places at the same time, a lot of things could get accomplished.

I could sleep late and be in class at the same time. I could go shopping and read a book or watch a movie at the same time and maybe I could have two boyfriends.

But then on the other hand, things could get sticky. What if Sheleah A was confused with Sheleah B and said the wrong thing to Professor Smith A or Professor Smith B.

Sheleah A's boyfriend may think Sheleah B is his girlfriend and who knows what may happen.

This is getting to be too much, maybe cloning humans won't work.

Clones are created when the genetic material from a single cell is injected into an egg cell that has no genes.

All this process may seem logical and unharmed but many scientists and legal experts question the long-term impact of this science.

There are concerns whether the clone will undergo the same evolution as a normal human would.

Most scientists say cloning is immoral and unreasonable, and the majority of the American population agrees.

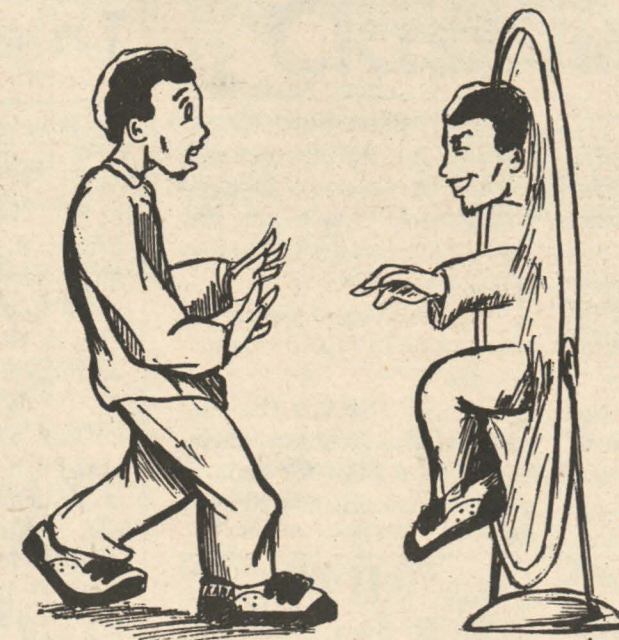
Even President George W. Bush does not feel that cloning or cloning research should be in America's future.

Just recently members of Congress asked Bush to testify during legislative sessions that he denounces cloning research.

Sure, cloning has already helped to discover pharmaceuticals for heart attacks, cystic fibrosis and strokes but unless scientists who support cloning can guarantee that nothing harmful will come from the research why continue?

Many people began to wonder just how far science would go after the creation of Dolly, a Scottish sheep that was created from another adult sheep in 1996.

Since the cloning of Dolly there have been cloned cows, mice, pigs and goats - but no one has actually made a complete human being.



Would you want a human clone?

AGAINST

No "First, of all you couldn't take another me. Second, when it comes to giving life that way you are acting like God. There is only one God and God gives life. In somethings we need to step out of our box -- there, we need to stay in."

- Dean Charles Lewter,
Dean, All Faiths Chapel

No "If God meant for there to be two of me, then God would have made two."

- Nikki Robinson
freshman psychology major
from Houston

FOR THE RECORD

No " People are supposed to be different not the same. Who would want someone walking around looking like them?"

- Jennifer Terrell
freshman education major
from Dallas

No "Life is sacred. We are fooling around in areas where we should not. Although we would have the same person, the experiences would not be the same."

- Dr. Henri Bailey
Associate Provost and
Vice President

FOR

Yes "I could be two places at one time, allowing me to get more things done."

- Tonja Smith
junior communication major
from Marlon

Yes "That way there would be two of me to bother everybody."

- Walter Gauthier
senior human performance
major
from Beaumont

The Panther staff randomly asked 30 students and administrators their opinions on the subject of human cloning. Of those 30, only two students responded yes.

The Panther Staff

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Aqueelah Anderson : Advertising Manager
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Lee Tillman: Assistant Entertainment Editor
Quincy Higgins : Graphic Designer

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The Panther Advisor :
Dr. Kimetris Baltrip

Technical Assistant :
Gitonga M'Mbijewe

NCOBRA marches to Prairie View city hall
Students demonstrate for reparations

By Tony Browne
Special to the Panther

The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA) called for a national school walk out and march on all government offices this week, with the focus of demanding reparations.

On April 4, 2001 (the date of the assassination of Martin Luther King), major demonstrations took place across the United States in cities including Atlanta and New York.

In conjunction with the walk-out, the Prairie View NCOBRA chapter lead over 50 students on foot to Prairie View city hall.

Reparations are payments to African-Americans to be used toward repairing the damaged and unhealthy condition of Black people as the direct result of the enslavement of their African an-

cestors. Chanting reparations centered rhymes and accompanied by police escorts, marchers went on to meet with Prairie View Mayor Ray Carreuthers on the front steps of city hall.

The Mayor presented a resolution in support of reparations.

NCOBRA is the only national grassroots organization with a plan for reparations acquisition and disbursement.

The organization also conducts national surveys, polling the Black community on its wants and needs.

NCOBRA also has nationally-elected representatives from cities across the United States and provides active recruitment of students for leadership positions.

For more information on NCOBRA activities contact the Office of Student Activities at extension 2018.

Thieves steal university lap-tops

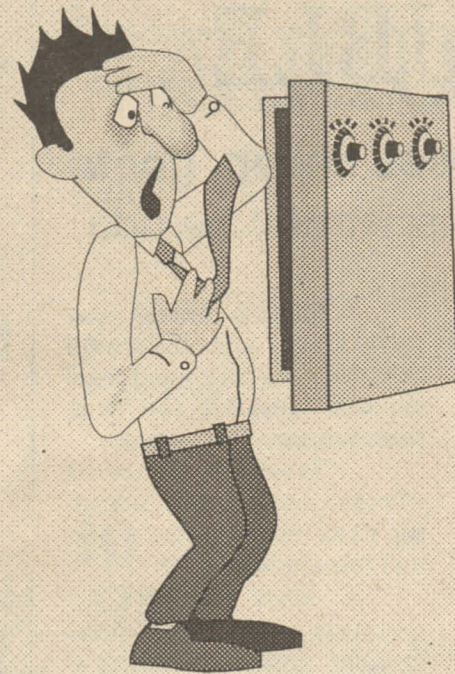
By Torrie Richardson
Panther Staff

Theft is a deviate crime in any situation, but it becomes that much more appalling when it affects the education of an individual.

Whenever an incident of this nature strikes, it reaches everyone. Such is the case with the architecture department at PVAMU.

Architecture administrator, Charles McClelland, said there have been break-ins in the past, but never of this magnitude.

McClelland also



said that in this particular case, locks were cut to provide access to the storage facility.

The Prairie View A&M University campus police, in conjunction with the Texas Rangers, are investigating this incident.

Sergeant Sands, who is heading the recovery team, is not allowing any further information to be released until the investigation has been completed.

Police are positive that they are very close to catching the vandals.

As a precautionary measure, McClelland and other architecture staff have installed an alarm system and video monitors to help deter any future would-be

thieves. At the present time, there is no discussion of a reward of any kind.

Baptist Student Movement attends national retreat in Virginia

By J.L. Nemons Jr.
Special to the Panther

Members of the Baptist Student Movement (BSM) traveled to Norfolk, Va. to attend the 56th National Baptist Student Union Retreat.

The theme of the retreat was "Living as a Citizen of the Kingdom."

BSM members represented Prairie View in the National Baptist Beautillion and the National Choir Competition, under the direction of Tera Mitchell, minister of music.

"At the retreat I gained a knowledge and a new understanding of what it truly takes to become a virtuous woman," said BSM

"Even if we didn't win, we got our message across and that is the most important victory of all."

- Alicia Upshaw

member Shaniva Johnson.

Students were also given the opportunity to attend retreat seminars. Topics ranged from "Dating: A Christian Perspective" to "The Traits of a Virtuous Woman."

Jena Pevy, Miss BSM 2000-2001, won first-runner up in a talent competition for her rendition of "Precious Lord."

Prairie View's Baptist Student Movement received an award for the largest attendance by a choir.

BSM also competed in the National Choir Competition where they won first place for their melody "You Oughta Been Their" by Ricky Dillard and "Never Would Have Made It" by Curt Carri.

The choir often uses props to enhance its performances.

This year, members wore blindfolds to demonstrate that without God, they would be lost.

"Even if we didn't win we felt we got our message across and that is the most important victory of all," Alicia Upshaw, president of Prairie View's BSM, said.

The Baptist Student Movement has attended the national retreat every year since 1970.

Classifieds

Panther Meetings
Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
Harrington Science Rm. 105

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ROTC Cadets participate in 'real life' field training

Special to the Panther

Members of the Prairie View A&M University core of cadets participated in a joint exercise this past weekend at Texas A&M University along with Texas Army ROTC college programs from across the state.

The Field Leadership Reaction Course (FLRC) is held annually at TAMU to train third year

cadets in leadership, squad movement and navigation.

The cadets spent the weekend without the comfort of showers and warm beds, but sleeping outdoors in tents and eating meals ready to eat (MREs) three times a day.

"The ground was hard and the MREs weren't anything to write home about," Cadet Chris Beal said.

The cadets are preparing for the end of a cycle skills test called Advanced Camp. The camp is the last requirement before a senior cadet can be commissioned.

"This weekend was a good experience for me, and beneficial towards my career as an Army officer. I was able to get a feel for what Advance Camp will be like this summer," Cadet Staff Sergeant Marie Carroll said.

AKA 'Dorm Step-Off' shows freshman talent, creativity

Aqueelah Anderson
Panther Staff

The fifth Annual Dorm Step-Off gave the freshmen class a chance to shine once again.

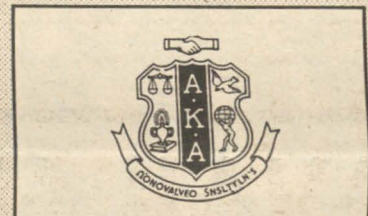
The Zeta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. hosted its annual Dorm Step-Off in the Baby Dome on April 3, 2001.

Seven groups of freshmen with themes such as "Charlie's Angels" and "The Storm is Coming" came together from the University College to compete for 1st and 2nd place prizes.

"The Dorm Step-Off gives the freshmen class a chance to show that they also have talent," said Natasha Fowler, Dorm Step-Off chair.

Judges Cameron S. Fowler, Letrice Dickerson, Corey LeDay, Michael Davis and Erin Stevenson evaluated contestants on the following criteria: 20 percent crowd appeal, 30 percent originality, 20 percent appearance and 30 percent for precision.

The Ladies of The Marching Storm, C Phi C, were the first on stage to compete with the theme from "Car Wash." Second were The Divine Angels whose theme came from the hit movie "Charlie's Angels."



"The Storm is Coming" was the theme for the C Phi C freshmen males.

Next the G's From That 41 gave the audience a show that included twirling canes. Ladies from different buildings in the University College came together to form a group called the Ladies of UC.

Sisters of Unity then graced the audience with their cat act and showed the crowd what unity in the University College and freshmen class is all about. Last on stage were the young men of Esquires who were portraying escapees.

"I thought that all groups did their very best," said Nicole Flonory, a junior communications major who said she enjoyed the show.

Second place trophies went to the Divine Angels and the G's From That 41. First place prizes of \$150 and a group trophy went to the Ladies of UC and the young men of Esquires.

All contestants in the Dorm Step-Off were given certificates of participation.

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Frequently Asked Questions

- How many times do I have to take the TASP test?** Students are now required to take the TASP test at least once every academic year until all TASP requirements are satisfied.
- Why do I have to take the TASP every year?** You can't pass the TASP without taking the test. PVAMU wants students to meet TASP requirements as quickly as possible; this can only be done if a student retests.
- What happens if I don't take the TASP every year?** Your ability to continue enrollment at PVAMU may end. PVAMU wants students to make satisfactory academic progress toward meeting TASP requirements. Failure to do so may result in a TASP hold.
- I took the TASP on August 1, 2000. am I ok?** Yes, a TASP test taken between August 1, 2000 to April 2001 makes a student eligible to pre-register.
- My last TASP test was on January 14, 2000, what happens to me?** Students with current TASP test scores before July 31, 2000 must retake the TASP before they will be allowed to pre-register for the Fall 2001 semester.

For more information contact the Office of Testing, Tracking Assessment and Evaluation, Delco Building 136, 936/857-2747.

VILLAGE from Page 1

increase making for bedrooms \$431 and two bedrooms \$487.50 per month.

Incoming freshmen who will live in University College will pay \$395 a month.

Beside the increase, changes have been made to the installment plan.

Instead of nine payments there will be a total of eight payments over the entire school year due on the first of each month, excluding August.

Barker added that this change is an effort to cut down on the number of accounts left delinquent.

ample amount of money. Compared to the University of Texas at San Antonio's \$5,000 allotment, PVAMU students were only allotted \$1,000 from the Department of Civil Engineering to aid them through the project.

Through solicitation, students not only were able to obtain materials for the trip but enough supplies for the department to use in labs.

PVAMU has been participating in this event for 25 years, and each year of participation brings on great improvements. According to ASCE president Kevin Hardaway, "This year PV made the best showing ever."

tion of a new architecture-building annex.

The Department of Psychology and Juvenile Justice will be awarded funding for the construction of a juvenile justice building to complement its newly established doctorate program.

Funding will also provide \$15 million in miscellaneous University renovations and operations.

Although funding was not secured by OCR to enhance all of the academic departments on campus, Hines still plans to enhance and expand remaining departments with other university funds.

"Their future is not linked with OCR but that does not mean they will be left behind. We will now have the use of other resources that have been set free by OCR to help everyone," Hines said.

During his address to Prairie View faculty and staff, President Hines also empha-

sized a goal of creating better public relations between both students and co-workers.

"We don't need OCR money to treat people with respect and dignity," Hines said. "One of my goals is to make this University a Tier 1 university. In order to do that, we must raise our standards of customer service and appreciation."

LAW from Page 1

tant that we are people that care for its community," he said. Neal currently serves as president of the Pan-Hellenic counsel. All members of the organizations represented on the counsel are required to complete at least 15 hours of community service per semester to stay eligible.

The same requirement is given to any organization that is officially recognized by the campus.

CANOE from Page 1

University of Houston, Lamar University, Texas A&M University and Texas Tech competed in the competition.

Preparing for competitions of this nature takes an

OCR from Page 1

be awarded to the Department of Engineering for renovations as well as to the School of Architecture for the construc-



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[obstacles] at you.
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