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Prairie View A&M University

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Federal studies show fifteen passenger vans dangerous

By Ryan McGinty
 Sports Editor

A van that is popular with college and social organizations received a government safety warning on Monday due to research that showed it was three times as likely to roll over when fully loaded.

The warning, which was issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, comes after several lives were lost during van accidents last year.

Federal studies concluded that the vans are likely to roll over when they contain 10 or more passengers.

According to the study, if the vans are fully loaded, the vans' center of gravity shifts up and to the back. As a result, the risk of roll overs increases, especially if the driver performs a panic maneuver.

"You have a vehicle that behaves entirely differently than when they are lightly loaded," NHTSA spokesman Rae Tyson said. "There is nothing inherently

wrong with these vehicles as long as you understand those characteristics and take that in to account."

Prairie View A&M University, which lost four athletes in a 15-passenger van accident last year, used the vans as their primary means for travel until the accident.

In an interview with ESPN's television show, "Outside the Lines," Prairie View A&M University President Charles Hines said the school

See **VANS** on Page 5

In the know

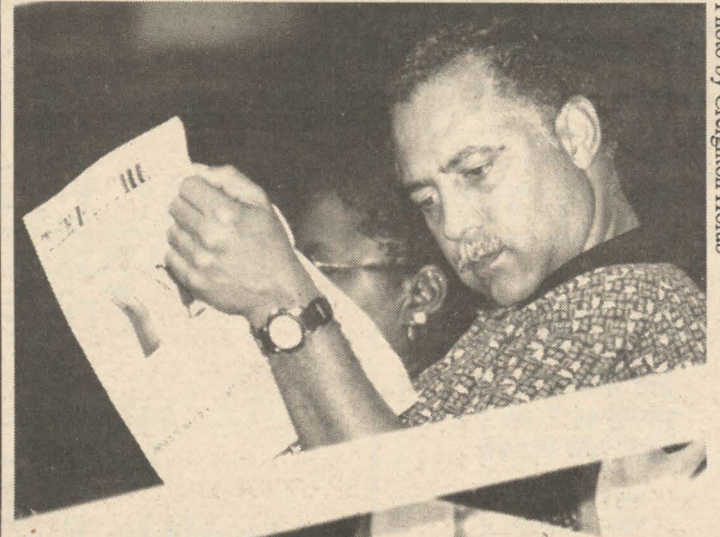


Photo by Creighton Holub

A Panther fan reads an issue of Prairie View's official student newspaper during a basketball game. The Panther continues to keep readers informed about campus, world and local news.

Woods claims 4th title

By Yauna Estes
 Panther Staff

One of the most influential African Americans in sports history has done it again. Tiger Woods made his mark in the sports world by winning the Masters on Sunday.

Woods is now the only player to own all four of golf's modern major championships simultaneously.

He competed against golf pros David Duval and Phil Mickelson, and grabbed the victory as he took his final putt and made it into the 72nd hole that increased his winning

See **TIGER** on Page 4

Navy funds student's dream: Barber accepted into Navy's officer program

By Yauna Estes
 Panther Staff

Prairie View student Darren Barber was awarded for his hard work and determination by the Navy's nuclear officer program.

On April 5, 2001, senior electrical engineering stu-

dent Barber was accepted into the Navy's Nuclear Power program.

He was awarded a check for over \$61,000 and will also receive a salary of \$22,000 a month.

Other benefits Barber will receive include: allowances for housing and food, 30 days with paid vacation each

year, tuition assistance for courses taken during off-duty time, medical and dental care and worldwide travel opportunities.

According to Barber, the application process took many steps to complete but it was worth the work.

"It is an excellent program and excellent opportunity. I feel great and honored that I have been accepted," Barber said.

The application was a 15-page document that was sent to recruitment offices in Houston.

Next, Barber visited several of the Navy's ships and submarines to see if working on them was what he truly wanted.

Finally, he was flown to Washington, DC for an interview.

After graduating, the students who are awarded this opportunity will receive

the world's most advanced nuclear training, and after completion, they may receive an additional bonus.

The nuclear training program begins with officer candidate school and ends with the officers being commissioned as ensigns in the Navy and beginning their active duty.

One year of advanced nuclear training follows, starting with six months of classroom training at a nuclear power school then six more months of hands-on training.

PVAMU's Dr. Kelvin Kirby, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and deputy director of the NASA Center for Applied Radiation Research, has been instrumental in exposing students to programs in their fields, and has assisted many students in his department in receiving opportunities such as Barber's.

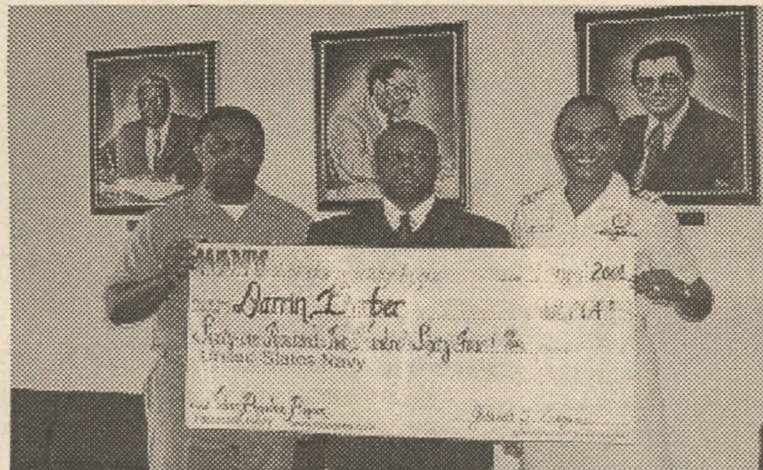


Photo furnished by engineering department
 PV engineering student Darren E. Barber was awarded over \$61,000.

In This Issue

Pay raise wanted.... see Page 4

Green light for golf See Page 6

Spring Fest line up... see Page 8

ATTENTION May 2001 Graduates

Graduate Level Values



Master's Degree Candidates

Commencement Exercise:

Friday, May 11, 2001
at 7 p.m.

William "Billy" Nicks, Sr.
Health & Physical Education Bldg.

Special Note:

- *No rehearsal scheduled for Master graduates
- *Friday graduates should report at 6 p.m.

Bachelor Degree Candidates

Commencement Exercise:

Saturday, May 12, 2001
at 10:30 a.m.

William "Billy" Nicks, Sr.
Health & Physical Education Bldg.

Special Note:

- *Rehearsal for Bachelor graduates is May 11 at 8:30 a.m.
- *Saturday graduates should report at 9:30 a.m.



The Canterbury Association
(Anglican/Episcopal Student Association)

The College Student Spirituality Gathering

For all students interested in enhancing their Spiritual Lives

5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 19, 2001

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Thurs.-Fri.: 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Sat.: 8:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.

Walk-Ins Welcome



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Submission Policy for Letters to the Editor

Anyone who reads The Panther can submit a letter to the editor by fax, e-mail, or postal service. All submissions are subject to editing and must include the author's name and telephone number.

'Lobby day' participants rock capitol

Texas state employees' union expresses complaints

By Kalyn L. Bullock
Managing Editor

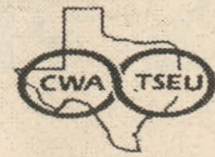
"No pay raise, no peace" was a phrase chanted by members of the Texas State Employees Union and Communications Workers Association on their "Lobby Day 2001."

On April 11, members of TSEU/CWA gathered in Austin, Texas for a rally outside of the state capitol.

People from across the state participated in the event. Prairie View A&M University was also represented.

The PVAMU group was headed by Willie Mae Bolar, secretary for KPVU. There were a total of 15 PVAMU workers in attendance.

The purpose of "Lobby Day" was for state workers to express their concerns and complaints to Texas lawmakers.



This year's main focus was for a \$4,800 employee pay raise and affordable health care.

TSEU/CWA employees believe that every state agency and university employee needs a raise in the upcoming years to correct almost 15 years of declining state worker standards of living.

While the economy of Texas is steadily increasing, state workers are facing a compensation crisis that is pulling the bottom out of their families' living standards and driving workers away from important jobs by the thousands.

"I have been with the

university for 21 years and have not received a pay raise," Bolar, a strong supporter of the TSEU/CWA, said.

Bolar is not the only state employee who has not received a pay raise. Many others also follow behind her.

Many of the TSEU/CWA members complained that they do hard work, but are unappreciated and therefore not compensated with the proper pay.

Another issue presented was concerning health care.

TSEU/CWA members argued and insisted that health care benefits need to be kept affordable for state employees, retirees and their families.

They also hope there will be no increase in their insurance premiums and no decrease in their benefits.

TSEU/CWA members were able to meet with the Texas Legislature to discuss the issues at hand.

TIGER from Page 1
margins to two strikes.

This was Woods' second Masters victory, and his sixth Grand Slam title.

Woods now holds trophies from the U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championships.

Though his specialty is golf, Woods is now in the same arena with Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak, and Michael Jordan.

Woods received a congratulatory phone call from President Bush moments after he put on his green jacket at the Augusta National Golf Club where the competition took place.

To seal the win, Woods shot a 4-under par 68 in the final round for a total

of 16 under 272.

He took the lead when Duval made his only mistake of the day, bogeying the par-3 16th hole.

Duval, whose final-round 67 tied for the low score of the day, then missed birdie putts of 14 feet on the 17th and six feet on the 18th, both could have drawn him back into a tie with Woods.

Woods made a 10-foot par putt on the 10th hole and birdies the par-5 13th with a two putt to keep him in the lead on the back nine until Duval birdies the par-15th to reach 15 under par.

When Tiger Woods won the Masters in 1997, he had not been a pro for an entire year.

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in The **PANTHER**

More deaths related to tobacco than breast cancer

By Marvin Anderson
Panther Staff

The American Heart Association announced that more than 145,000 women die every year from smoking related diseases.

Lung cancer has surpassed breast cancer as the leading cause of death among women.

Over 22 million

American women are smokers.

PVAMU female students admitted to smoking as a result of peer pressure.

"I tried it because my friends did, but I decided it was disgusting and unlady-like," said PVAMU sophomore Melissa Morris.

"I smoked to relieve frustration and because it was

the 'in thing' to do," said sophomore Kim Jessie.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimated that 90 percent of the current smokers began smoking before the age of 20.

Persons interested in smoking are urged to research the habit and decide if a quick 'puff' is worth risking a healthy life.

Fashion show reveals future looks

By Felicia Walker
News Editor

Controversial style and eccentric designs mixed with hip-hop music and poetry entertained dozens as Prairie View students presented their latest clothing creations.

Club Flava, an organization of mostly fashion majors and minors, hosted the Fashion Premiere 2001 Tuesday night in the Animal Industries Building.

Hosts for the evening were PV students Teagan Gay and Terence Halbert.

Designers and their labels included Christina Lockett-Controversy; Halimah Saafir-Halimah; Katrina Toney-Kat Walk; Keitrick Williams-Against Da Grain; Monique Patterson-Mo; Roderick Matthews-Big Baby and Alicia Fields-Dicimi.

From hand-sewn sequin bras to tailor-made

suits, Lockett's designs captured a theme that suggested nothing but the survival of the fittest.

Saafir's creations touched a wilder side of Africentric clothing.

Mixing denim patchwork with bright colors, she opted to accentuate a woman's natural curves.

Both Toney and Williams presented more casual daytime apparel with sequin designs or screen prints.

Patterson's designs suggested nothing but fun from day to night. Her dresses screamed 'Hollywood.'

Big Baby released its latest on-the-yard designs plus a few ideas for the club.

Bringing the show to a dynamic close, Fields dressed models to be 'classy and sexy' with sophisticated leather, fur and pastel designs.

VAN from Page 1

used the vans because they were cost effective.

"I would like to charter a bus or fly commercially for all of our teams, but the size of our travel budgets do not allow it," Hines said.

Since the accident, which occurred while the track team was traveling to a meet in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, the school has changed its travel policies. Houston Watson, a student-athlete who was killed, was driving the van.

The university has adopted new guidelines which call for all drivers, including students and staff members, to attend driving classes that focus on how to handle dangerous situations as well as proper driving techniques.

In addition, the prospective driver must sign a list of rules and guidelines and complete a data sheet which includes an in-depth driving record.

According to federal law, schools are banned from purchasing or renting the vans for travel. However, colleges and universities are not banned from using the vans.

The vans identified by the NHTSA include the Ford Econoline E350, Ford Club Wagon E350, Chevrolet Express 3500, GMC Savana G3500, GMC Rally/Vandura G3500, Dodge Ram Van/Wagon B3500 and Dodge Ram Wagon B350.

Classifieds

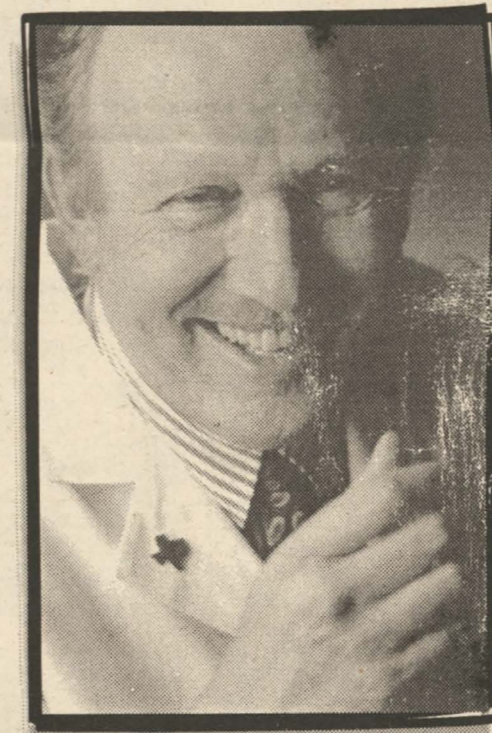
Panther Meetings
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Rm. 104



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Lack of funds no excuse for poor student safety



'Even though money is the bottom line as to why the facilities are in the shape they're in, there should be no excuse as to why students are subjected to these conditions.'

By Ryan McGinty
Sports Editor

Over here you have broken nets, cracked courts and faulty fences. Over there you have an outdated scoreboard and a court that needs repainting along with the removal of a mountain that has grown along the side of it. No, I am not talking about the city park; these facilities exist here at Prairie View.

After a brief tour of PV facilities last weekend, some of our athletic fields are not on the same level as the others. Even though one program may bring in more revenue than another, why put the student athletes in the smaller revenue program at risk with dilapidated facilities?

I have seen more athletes during the spring sport season complain of injuries than the fall sports participants. Is this a conspiracy or something?

For the next several weeks, I will comment on the state of our campus athletic facilities. Instead of the usual cries of "bigger football stadium" and "athletic scholarships," I will list the most notable facility flaws among selected athletic programs.

The flaws will range from the lack of paint on the Babydome floor to the old Coke sign that is still on top of the baseball scoreboard. It is time to highlight these problems before they become bigger and more expensive.

Even though money is the bottom line as to why the facilities are in the shape they're in, there should be no excuse for why students are subjected to these conditions.

Next week: The Babydome and Tennis courts

Pennant Run



Photo by Ghionga M. Mbiijawe

Junior shortstop Carolyn Hutchings waits for the next pitch during a game last week. The Lady Panthers are in second place in the SWAC behind Texas Southern.

Panther golfers leave for SWAC championships on positive note

By Tanesha Dillard
Special to the Panther

The Prairie View A&M University men's and women's golf teams will participate in the SWAC golf championship in Arkansas this weekend.

Even before the championships, the team has endured a long, rigorous season.

At their last invitational, which was also held in Arkansas, the men's and women's team placed second and third respectively.

Due to their strong performance at the invitational, Panther golfers Keith Sager and Eric Easton received all-tournament honors.

The other members for the men's team include Charlie Brown, Mike Georges and Jason Nichols.

The members of the women's team include Tanesha Dillard, Janna Divila, Jennifer Powell and Nina Wright.

Head golf coach Vernon Perry believes that if the two teams work hard and practice well, they both will be well-prepared for the tournament.

"The team has improved all season long," Perry said. "We look forward to receiving more recognition at the SWAC championship."

At stake is a NCAA tournament berth for the winning teams.

Baseball

SWAC West Standings

Southern.....	17-3
Texas Southern.....	16-8
Grambling.....	10-8
Arkansas-PB.....	6-18
Prairie View.....	5-17

Next Game

4-13 at Grambling (DH)
4-14 at Grambling (DH)

Softball

Upcoming Games

4-16 Centenary
4-18 Houston Baptist

Tennis

Upcoming Match

4-12 at Southern U.

Golf

April 11-13

Men's and Women's SWAC Championships

Houston Chronicle

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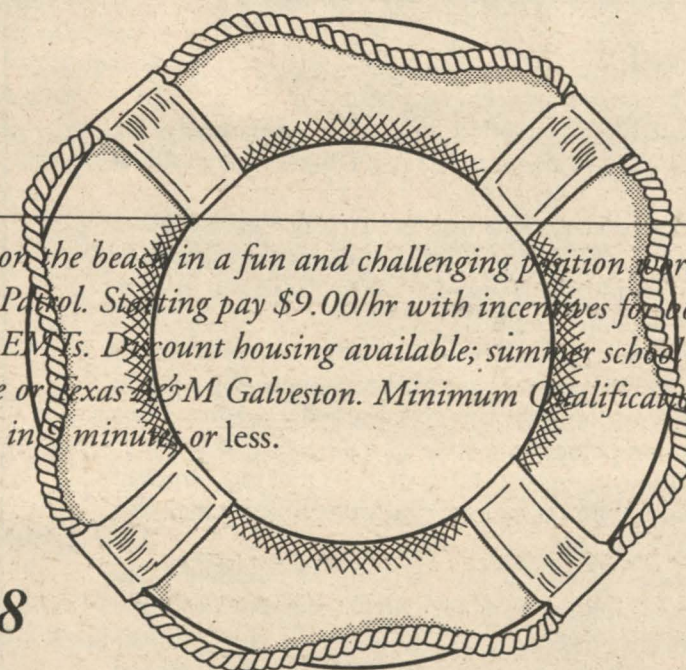
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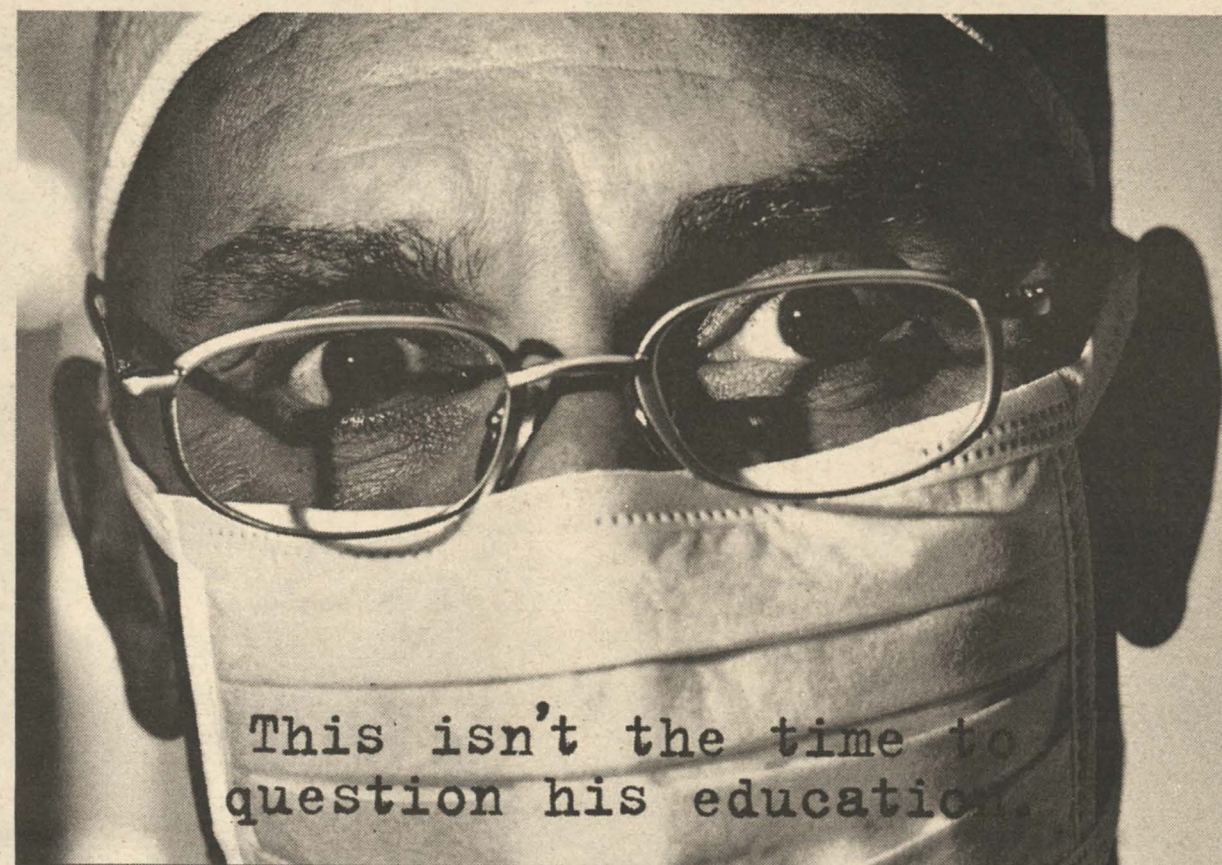


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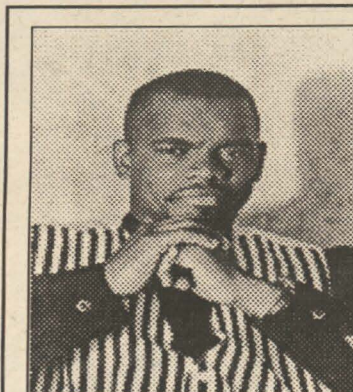


Spring Fest

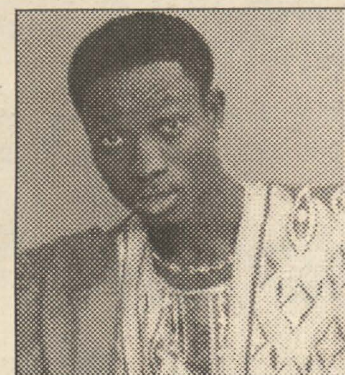
Calendar of events

25 Tuesday

Talent show, William "Billy" J. Knicks Fieldhouse, 7 pm



AJ Johnson



Michael Blackson

26 Wednesday

Reggae Fest featuring Pappa Ru and DJ Gold Fingers, Front of Alumni Hall, 6 pm

27 Thursday

Comedy show featuring AJ Johnson/Michael Blackson, William "Billy" J. Knicks Fieldhouse, 7 pm

28 Friday

Concert featuring Mystikal, William "Billy" J. Knicks Fieldhouse, 7 pm

29 Saturday

Stepshow and After party, William "Billy" J. Knicks Fieldhouse, 7 pm



Rap Artist, Mystikal