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THE PANTHER

panther@pvamu.edu · Volume 79, Issue 15 · January 23, 2002

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

PVAMU students benefit from \$60,895,440 donation

Leading African-American engineering institution receives largest ever in-kind donation to an HBCU

By Keith Donovan
GM Communications

General Motors Corp., Sun Microsystems and EDS continue to demonstrate their commitment to education by donating \$60,895,440 in computer-aided design, manufacturing, and engineering (CAD/CAM/CAE) software, hardware and training to Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University, Prairie View, Texas.

This corporate alliance initiative, titled Partners for the Advancement of CAD/CAM/CAE Education (PACE), was formed in 1999 to help provide future engineers from key institutions the education and experience desired by each of the partnering corporations.

Pace creates networks for research, curriculum development, textbook development and other forms of collaboration between GM, Sun Microsystems, EDS and academia. In addition to the hardware, software and training donated by the three core partners, PACE institutions receive a substantial contribution of ADAMS (Automatic Dynamic Analysis of Mechanical Systems) software from Mechanical Dynamics, Inc of Ann Arbor, Mich.

Students at Prairie View will now be using the same advanced math based engineering and design tools in the classroom that GM engineers used in the lab to design the 2002 Chevy Avalanche, Trailblazer and a host of new concept vehicles introduced at this year's North American International Auto Show. Students will learn to

design, engineer and validate products in a virtual world to prepare them to address real-world challenges such as accelerated product development cycles and increased productivity demands.

"The technology that PACE has donated represents the future of engineering and design. Our industry demands that we move quickly and deliver unsurpassed quality, reliability and durability in every product that rolls off the line," says Jerry Gibbs, GM executive director of North America product development quality. "By the time they graduate, these students will be among the most experienced and highly skilled graduates to enter the work force. Companies such as ours will return to them for innovative ideas and the know-how to deliver excellent products."

Prairie View A&M University, a comprehensive, public, land-grant university and member of the Texas A&M University System, is one of the nation's top producers of African-American engineers.



A representative of General Motors committing to a partnership with Prairie View and PACE



College of engineering receives 60 million dollar donation from representatives of GM, Sun Microsystems and EDS.

Prairie View joins an elite list of universities in the United States, Canada and Mexico benefiting from a donation of leading-edge technology that will help prepare students for careers in engineering and manufacturing.

"We're very pleased to

be a part of this program and grateful for the mutually beneficial

Continued on Page 4

COMING NEXT WEEK

A look at SuperBowl XXXVI

With four teams standing who will be SuperBowl champions? Watch New England vs. Pittsburgh and St. Louis vs. Philadelphia to find out.

Inside

Prairie View Producing Prominent Black Ph.Ds in Physics see Page 4

WEATHER



Greater Houston Area weekend forecast: Mostly cloudy with a 50% chance of rain throughout the week. High 75 Low 50

•State•

•National•

•World•

Hitchhiker killed

Pineland, Texas
AP- Race was apparently not a factor in the slaying of a white hitchhiker allegedly run over by a black man who wanted him to pay gas money, authorities said Monday.

Jasper County Sheriff Billy Rowles said he did not believe the killing was motivated by race or revenge.

Worker's concerns about Enron

Houston, Texas
AP-A former Enron Corp. manager fired for using a company computer to post negative messages about his employer on the Internet believed he and his colleagues were misled when Chairman Kenneth Lay touted the stock three weeks before the company began to implode, an attorney representing laid off workers said.

Man dies in custody

Baytown, Texas
AP-Authorities are awaiting autopsy results detailing what caused a 45-year-old man to die after he was taken into police custody over the weekend. Baytown police officers, responding to a call regarding an intoxicated person, found Luis Torres wandering the streets early Sunday morning. They determined Torres had earlier run away from paramedics who had been called to treat him.

Tie-breaking vote

Richmond, Virginia
AP- Lt. Gov. Timothy Kaine cast his first tie-breaking vote in a deadlocked state Senate, giving approval to a bill that allows local voter registrars to provide information to voters in languages other than English.

With the 40-member Senate tied 20-20, largely on partisan lines, Kaine voted with fellow Democrats in favor of the bill Monday, sending it to the overwhelmingly Republican House of Delegates where its future is bleak.

Celebrities out of trouble

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
AP-Former federal prosecutor Walter Piszczatowski and his colleagues at the Bloomfield Hills law firm of Hertz, Schram & Saretsky have built a star-studded client base in recent years, representing some of metro Detroit's famous - some would say infamous characters. The firm, nestled on the shore of Square Lake, has become a kind of onestop law shop, where celebrity authors have their wills drawn up and multimillionaire auto executives get help with their divorces.

Man missing after mishap

Bristol, Indiana
AP- Rescue teams searched the St. Joseph River on Monday for the body of a Cleveland man whose rental truck flipped off an Indiana Toll Road bridge. Kenneth Earl Pryor, 37, was headed west about 8:45 a.m. Sunday when the accident occurred, Indiana State Police said. Police believe Pryor's truck struck a bridge wall.

Congo talks delayed

Gaborone, Botswana
AP- Talks aimed at ending Congo's three-year civil war have been delayed until mid-February because organizers need more time to seek funding and decide who would be participating, mediators said Monday.

The talks, which had been scheduled to resume at the end of January in South Africa, aim to bring together government and rebel representatives.

Japan will install weapons

Tokyo, Japan
AP-Japan's Coast Guard said Monday it will install long-range machine guns on new patrol boats to bolster policing of Japanese waters.

The announcement comes one month after a mysterious boat, believed to be a North Korean spy ship, made an incursion into seas off southern Japan and sank after a gunfight with Coast Guard vessels.

U.S. Taliban to be flown disclosed location

Kandahar, Afghanistan
AP-American Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh will probably be flown Tuesday from the U.S. Navy ship where he is being held to an undisclosed location, U.S. military officials said.

On Monday, the officials, who asked for anonymity, declined to divulge Lindh's ultimate destination or other details, saying only that he would transit through the U.S. military base at Kandahar airport.

Afghanistan gets rebuilt

Tokyo, Japan
AP- The world came together Monday to pledge billions of dollars to rebuild Afghanistan, whose interim leader told an international conference of donors that his country has known "nothing but disaster, war, brutality and deprivation." The United States, Japan and Europe topped a list of donors who opened the two-day conference in Tokyo by promising more than \$2.6 billion of reconstruction aid over the next three years. Most will be spent on "quick-impact" projects to alleviate the political chaos and economic desperation.



Where Are You Going??

Tuesday & Wednesday
Feb. 13, 2001

SPRING 2002 CAREER FAIR

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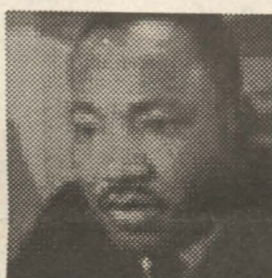
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King's dream not fully realized



AP Wire

While Virginia has made progress toward the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of racial equality, but there's too much left undone to celebrate, Gov. Mark Warner said Monday.

"I wish I could tell you when we started that in the 21st century, Dr. King's dreams for America have finally been realized," Warner told a commemoration of only the second Martin Luther King holiday in Virginia. "There is still much to be done."

"Today in the commonwealth we still have enormous challenges to overcome. Too many of our people are unemployed and without hope. Too many of our rural communities exist in economic despair. Too many school children don't have the same access to world-class education that I had," Warner said.

The General Assembly voted only two years ago to give King his own holiday and separate it from the observance it shared with Confederate

Gens. Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

Del. Mary Christian, D-Hampton and chairwoman of the legislature's black caucus, said many television reports about the King holiday focused on the question, "Is the dream still alive?" She said it is, and used the Sept. 11 attacks as an analogy.

"When we all witnessed the greatest tragedy, one of the most catastrophic events on American soil in our history, we saw the tumbling of a great, magnificent structure," she said in a speech on the House floor. "We knew many lives were lost."

"But among the smoldering embers ... there emerged the greatest display of patriotism, of unity, of understanding, of compassion throughout this country and abroad."

And to those who ask, "Is the dream still alive," I say yes, the dream is still alive - not fully realized, but still alive."

The Panther

Prairie View A&M University's official student publication

The Panther is a publication supported through advertising and student activity fees. Views expressed within the publication are not necessarily those shared by Prairie View A&M University or the Texas A&M University Board of Regents. All articles, photographs and graphics are property of The Panther

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.

Submission Policy
for Letters to the Editor

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**For convenience only
Having faith when in need**



By **Tenesia S. Mathews**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

What is faith? And why is it only used at man's convenience?

Any of you readers ever realized that the only time that faith is thought about or even re-

ferred to is when there is chaos or a crisis?

Prayer has been taken out of the school system for nearly a decade and when tragedy strikes the president asks for a moment of silence.

Instead of having faith in the Deity 24/7 365 days a year, America had faith for two weeks at its own convenience.

From experience, people should realize that God is not a God of convenience.

Man tends to put God in a box and the only time the box is opened is when there is some sort of crisis or tragedy.

On the American revenue, the statement "In GOD we trust" is written, but do American really trust God.

If so, why not have faith in him everyday of the year instead of just two weeks out of the year?

And if Americans really believe in God why not let God fight our battles instead taking matters into our own hands and making situations worse.

Fact is that no one is perfect and Americans tend to be even less perfect than normal.

How can a country that claims to be the strongest and most stable of them

not be stable enough to recognize God in His greatness.

Even Atheists who claim that they are so anti-Christ tend to contradict themselves when problems arise.

America can not expect to be in the favor of the Deity if we continue to oppress other countries and cause Wars that are totally unnecessary and completely unfair.

So to end, what is faith really to Americans and do Americans really serve God as the giver of all or just for convenience?

And if we don't believe in God then who?

Virginia center no longer create embryos for stem cells

AP Wire

The first U.S. research institute to announce it was creating human embryos for the sole purpose of harvesting stem cells said Thursday it will stop the practice.

The Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School drew protests from abortion opponents when it announced in July that it had fertilized donated eggs specifically for stem-cell research.

Dr. William E. Gibbons, chairman of the university's department of obstetrics and gynecology, said the institute still endorses stem cell research and that the decision wasn't simply a reaction to political pressure.

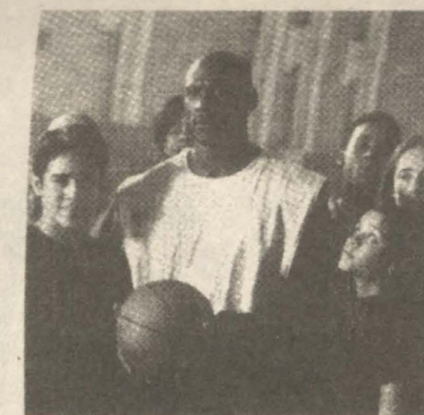
He said the scientist who started the research, Gary Hodgen, recently retired because of illness, and his replacement, Roger G. Gosden, is interested in stem cells but wants

to concentrate on other areas.

"The Jones Institute has been among the pioneers in infertility and ES (embryo stem) cell research, although it is not currently planning to generate any new cell lines," Gibbons and Gosden said in a statement Thursday.

Gosden said he might still obtain human stem cells from some of the 60 existing lines that President Bush approved in August. Bush decided only those lines would be eligible for federal funding because their use would not constitute the taking of life.

Embryonic stem cells are the basic building blocks of the body from which the organs and other cells develop. Scientists hope to use them someday to treat Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other diseases. Most embryonic stem-cell research is performed using fertilized eggs that were left over from in-vitro fertilization procedures. The Jones Institute, a private fertility clinic, was also responsible for the birth in 1981 of the nation's first test-tube baby.



Michael Jordan just signed with another team.

Michael Jordan knows the value of a good education. That's why he has joined with The College Fund. To give deserving students the chance for an education they otherwise might not receive. Please help the bright and talented students of tomorrow fulfill their dreams of becoming doctors, lawyers, scientists, or anything they want to be. Give to The College Fund. And join Michael Jordan's team for better education.

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Prairie View Ranked 1st in the Nation

Physics Department producing prominent Black Ph.D recipients

By Dr. Cleo Bentley
Physics Department Head

The Physics staff at Prairie View A&M University is happy to announce that three of its former physics graduates have gone on to receive Ph.Ds in physics for the 2001 school year.

The Physics Department is very proud of their accomplishments.

As a result, PV Physics is number one in the nation in the special category of producing black bachelors who have continued to achieve Ph.Ds in physics from other universities for the school year 2000-2001, hence for the 21st century, thus far.

Over the past 30 years, an average of only eight black Ph.Ds in physics per year are awarded in the United States, according to the American Institute of Physics.

This honor follows the awarding of a doctorate in physics from Rice University to Julius Barnes in 1998, who was the first black bachelor from Prairie View A&M and Texas to later obtain a Ph.D in physics.

The three recipients of new physics Ph.D diplomas are the following: Dr. Byron Freelon, who graduated from Prairie View in 1993, received his Ph.D from the University of Minnesota in March and now is working at the University of California, Berkley, in condensed matter physic.

Dr. Kevin Storr (1996 PV graduate), who received his Ph.D. in August from Florida State University and is now working as a post-doc at FSU in the National Magnetic Field lab. And Dr. Carlton Watson (1994 PV graduate), who received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in June and now works as the Research manager for a semiconductor micro-fabrication company in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dr. Cleo Bentley, Jr. until recently the department head who had taught upper and lower division undergraduate physics, and has done research in quantum optics.

Dr. Innocent Aluka (who has taught physical science and done geology research.

Dr. Dennis Judd who has taught upper and lower division undergraduate physics and has done research in high energy physics.

Dr. Richard Thomas who has taught lower division undergraduate physics, and has done research in x-ray crystallography.

Dr. David Wagoner who has taught upper and lower level division undergraduate physics and has done research in high energy physics.

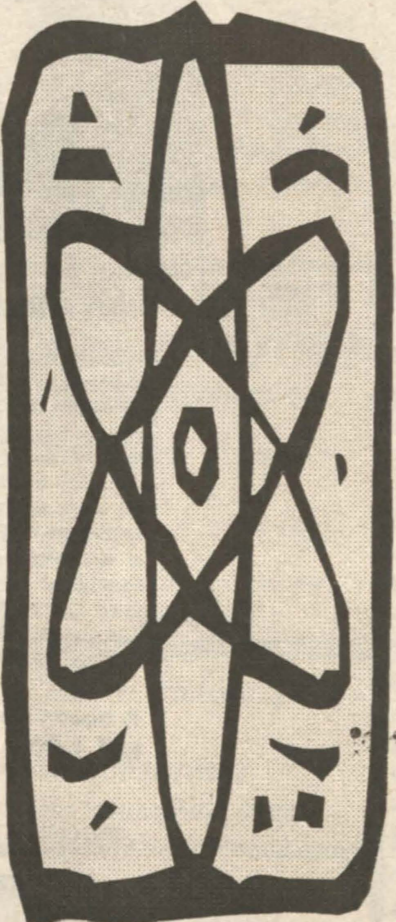
And Dr. Fred Wang who has taught lower division undergraduate physics and has done research in space radiation damage.

Additionally, Dr. Tien-sen Huang, senior research scientist at Prairie View, has had a positive influence on physics students through his research in space and plasma physics.

The Physical Staff heartily congratulates the three former students on such an extraordinary achievement of obtaining doctorates in physics all in the same year of 2001.



L-R Standing: Fred Wang, Innocent Aluka, David Wagoner, Cleo Bentley
L-R Sitting: Richard Thomas & Dennis Judd



Donation from Page 1

and strategic relationship we will be developing with all of the PACE partners," said Prairie View A&M University President Dr. Charles A. Hines at a donation ceremony held today on the campus of Prairie View University. "This significant gift of computer hardware and software, as well as the training and technical support to operate those systems, will help

to ensure Prairie View's long tradition of preparing the top technical and managerial leaders of the future. Combined with the recent OCR Priority Plan for Prairie View A&M, the past 12 months is the most resource-rich environment ever experienced in PVAMU's history and continues the university's march to increased excellence. This is the largest gift in the history of our university."

University Systems, is one of the nation's top producers of African-American engineers. Prairie View joins an elite host of universities in the United States, Canada and Mexico benefiting from a donation of leading-edge technology that will help prepare students for careers in engineering and manufacturing.

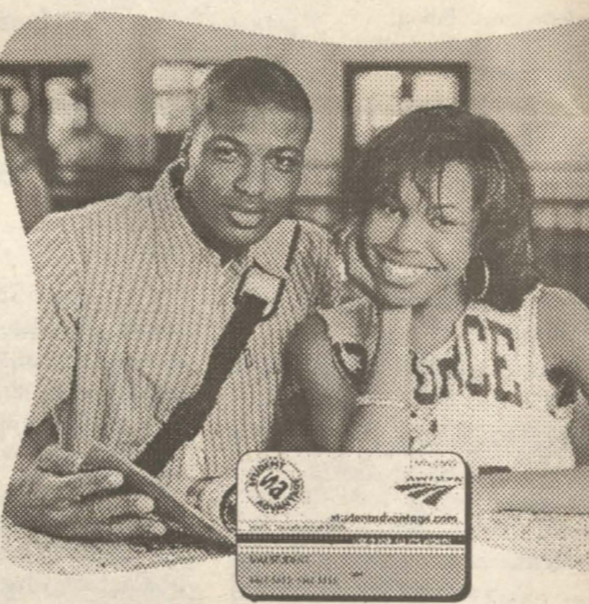


Panther Meetings
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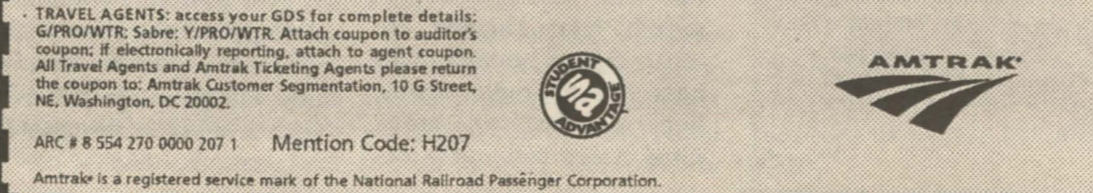
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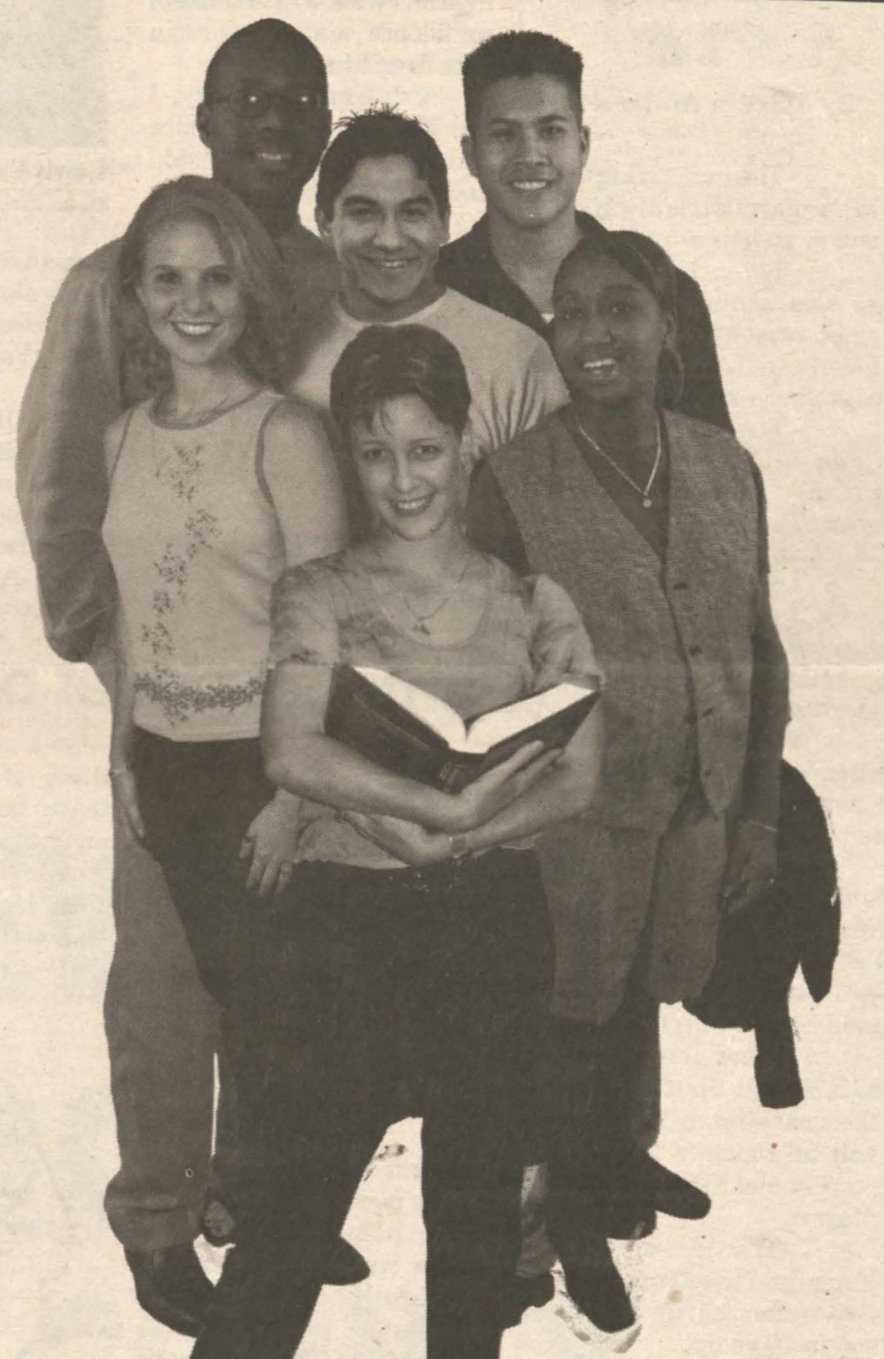
Classes begin February 11

Houston Community College System is offering discounted tuition on select courses offered at certain locations throughout the system as part of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Reduced Tuition Pilot Program made possible by the Texas Legislature's passage of HB 1465.

For a complete listing of reduced tuition classes, pick up a Spring 2002 Class Schedule or call 713-718-2000.



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NFL Coaching Carousel



By Marvin Anderson
Sports Editor

The underlying theme in the playoffs has always been win or go home.

Recently the same can be said about NFL coaches, since season's end 6 coaches have been fired for lack of success this past season.

The Indianapolis Colts filled their coaching vacancy yesterday hiring former Tampa Bay head coach Tony Dungy.

Dungy brought the Bucs out of the NFL basement, but could not guide the uninspired bunch into the Superbowl.

The Colts hire Dungy in hopes of getting their inept defense to match the caliber of their explosive offense.

The Washington Redskins replaced veteran head coach Marty Schottenheimer with former University of Florida head man Steve Spurrier.

What remains to be seen is will Spurrier become the next Jimmy Johnson, or will he struggle to gain the respect and attention of NFL players.

The Minnesota Vikings fired head coach Dennis Green after the first losing season in 10 years.

Green didn't even get a chance to finish the season before being fired for offensive line coach Mike Tice.

With three heading coaching positions remaining expect the unexpected.

Some names to keep in mind former San Diego Chargers assistant Norv Turner, Baltimore Ravens defensive coordinator Marvin Lewis, and even 73 year old former Buffalo Bills coach Marv Levy.

Leaping over high hurdles of life

By La'Katheryn Shaw
Co Editor and Chief

Whether standing in front of alumni with his track buddies or sitting under the Sigma tree with his fraternity brothers.

Lewis Edmondson continues to hold his head high and walk with a sense of confidence that no one can take from him.

"I am not cocky, I just have a lot of confidence and I believe in myself," said Lewis Edmondson.

During his sophomore year, Edmondson was apart of an accident that claimed the lives of four of his teammates and left him injured.

Not even the fatal accident could keep him from jumping the next hurdle standing in his way.

It took not only time but hard work for him to get back into top shape, and to be

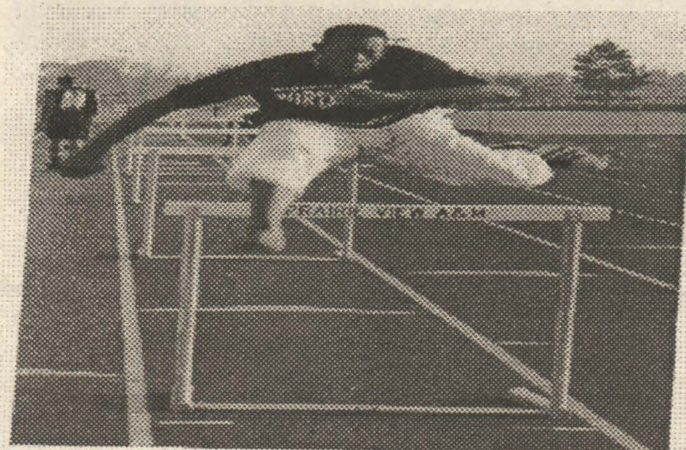


Photo courtesy of Panther Archives

Lewis Edmondson practicing on his form during track practice.

prepared mentally to continue going along so that he can get in a zone. At that point he feels that no one can beat him.

Before Edmondson competes in a race, he says a prayer and places four fingers in the air in remembrance of the friends he lost.

After competing in a number of meets, none stands

out in Edmondson's mind as much as last summer's National Championship.

"It was a great accomplishment, no one expected us to be there," said Edmondson.

In many aspects of life Edmondson has decided and is determined to be a survivor.

During his intake

process to become a member of Phi Beta Sigma, he was given the line name Survivor.

"It's a two part story, the first part came from me surviving the wreck, the other while going through the intake process," said Edmondson.

As far as pride, Edmondson views each of his accomplishments near and dear to his heart.

Edmondson said, "nothing has ever been handed to Lewis on a silver platter, I've worked hard for everything that I have gotten."

With this being Edmondson's last season, he plans to accomplish two things this season. "I want to go back to Nationals in the 400-meter relay and make my first appearance in the 110 hurdles," said Edmondson.

After college Edmondson plans to teach school and coach track.

"I would never set myself up for failure," said Edmondson.

Panthers upset bid foiled by Cougars

By Maurice May
Panther Staff

The University of Houston Cougars expected to find an easy victory on Thursday, but what they found was a team full of heart and determination in the form of the Prairie View A&M University Panthers.

The Cougars were the first visiting team to play on the newly renovated court in the Baby Dome, and if the game was any indication, there will be plenty of wins to celebrate.

U of H was obviously loose and care free for the game, while the Panthers were focused and determined to treat Panther fans to a huge upset.

The game got off to a good start for the Panthers who kept stride with the Cougars for most of the first half. After a 3-pointer by Senior guard Gregory Burks made the score 22-29. Forward Louis Truscott sparked an 8-0 run that made the score 22-35.

Defense was then a

thing of the past as both teams began to score at will on each other, but the Cougars were able to build on their lead by taking advantage of the Panthers being in

tributions from the bench, especially Panther forward Brandon Moorer, and Jereme McGuire of the Cougars.

With 8:52 remaining



the penalty for the final 9:03 of the first half and were up 31-52 at halftime.

The second half began the way the first ended, with nothing but offense.

Both teams went back and forth with key con-

in the second half, Burks kicked out a pass to Kevin Jones who drained a three-pointer to close the gap 65-81.

The Panthers proceeded to give the Cougars a taste of what they could do.

Ivan Coulter converted a fastbreak dunk,

Burks made two free throws and a 3-pointer, and just like that the lead was cut to nine.

The Panthers then locked into the Cougars for the next two minutes never letting them get any further than 10 points ahead.

U of H finally made another run to keep the Panthers from completing the upset bid.

Cougar center Patrick Okafor made good on all four of his free throw attempts to close out the game 85-99.

The Panthers were led by a season high tying 26 points from Burks, and also a double-double from Ray Lark (15 pts, 10 rebounds).

The Panthers biggest problem was on the boards where they were beaten 47-27.

It was just the kind of game that the Panthers needed to give them a boost as they begin conference play.

They also are on a two game winning streak now, having defeated the Arkansas-Pine Bluff Golden Lions 76-63 and the Mississippi Valley State Delta Devils 85-78.

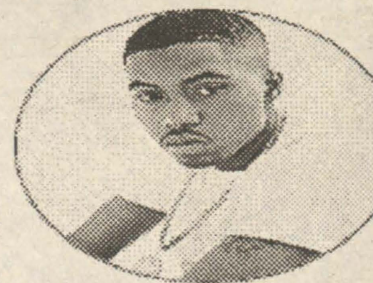
Nas continues Jay-Z school yard fight

By Jamaal Bachelor
Panther Staff

Escobar season has returned. Hip-hops grimeiest poet is back once again with an attempt to set the record straight regarding who truly is the best MC.

Unless you've been asleep for the past two months you are aware of the lyrical war going on between Nas and the self-proclaimed "King of New York" Jay-Z. But before we jump into the album lets back up a little... When Jay's album was released on September 11th there was more than one explosion in America. The streets finally heard what the industry knew for years, these two guys have beef.

On the now classic track "The Takeover," Jay critically attacked Nas' character and blatantly invited the rapper to war: "Ask Nas, he don't



Nas

want it with Hov. Noooooo!!!!" The Jigga-man also made the mistake of awakening a sleeping lion. Nas fired back at the song with his own classic cut, the adrenaline

pumping battle rap entitled "Ether." Ether is a highly flammable substance used to put someone to sleep. And with that track, he put any rumors of him being a has-been to rest. Which brings us up to date.

Stillmatic didn't quite have the explosive effects upon its release as the Blueprint did, but it did spark.

Besides "Ether," tracks like "2nd Childhood" (check the words), and "One Mic" show that Nas still has skills. But the real jewel of this album is a song called "What Goes Around."

Stillmatic is no Blueprint, but it shines in its own light.

1. Why is the yard so dead?
2. Why does everyone make plans for the day after they cut overpayment checks?
3. Why didn't the Alphas help the AKAs advertise the MLK Walk?
4. Who else wanted to be on Nickelodeon's Double Dare when they were younger?
5. Why does every person want their name in 20 Questions and every organization want their name out of it?
6. Who throws a better Thirsty Thursday: the Ques or the Alphas?
7. Have you ever wondered exactly what the Ques put in Que Oil?
8. Since when does our basketball team play Conference USA schools?
9. And why was it crunker than a SWAC game?
10. Who's happier: the Deltas and the Alphas or the people that want to be Deltas and Alphas?
11. Who was in that fight last week?
12. Why did some guy videotape it?
13. Was that some sort of initiation process for the Sigmas and the track team?
14. When will they finish "renovating" the New Gym?
15. Will they call it the New New Gym?
16. Have they finally started recycling Black coaches in the NFL?
17. Is it cheaper to commute from Houston than to live on campus?
18. Why does BET show Robert Tillton right after "Uncut" videos?
19. Why did "Lem" from Soulfood come out with a dance video?
20. What do you think?

Please bring your comments to Rm.105 Harrington Science or email panther@pvamu.edu. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther.

VOTE



RON LEVERETT

JUDGE

WALLER COUNTY

Republican Primary

March 12, 2002

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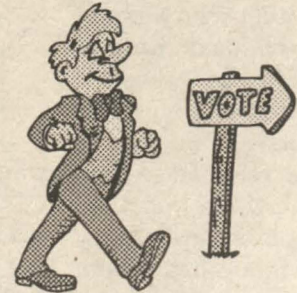
What's at Stake

don't just learn history

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TASP qualified sophomores with 54 credit hours or near, by the end of their sophomore year. We are also seeking qualified seniors. Other requirements apply, contact the internship office for an interview at extension 2055.

Criminal Justice Majors are highly encouraged to apply.