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THE PANTHER

panther@pvamu.edu · Volume 79, Issue 19 · February 20, 2002

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Black mayor of Dallas runs for U.S. Senate

Ron Kirk Campaign
Special to the Panther Staff

In the history of the United States there has never been an African American United States Senator.

Ron Kirk, former mayor of Dallas and now a candidate for the United States Senate has built a reputation of bringing people together and getting things done.

First elected mayor in 1995, and reelected in 1999 with 74% of the vote, Kirk helped put an end to the divisive politics that had dominated of the city of Dallas.

Kirk, the first African American Mayor of Dallas and of a major Texas City, united the city across racial

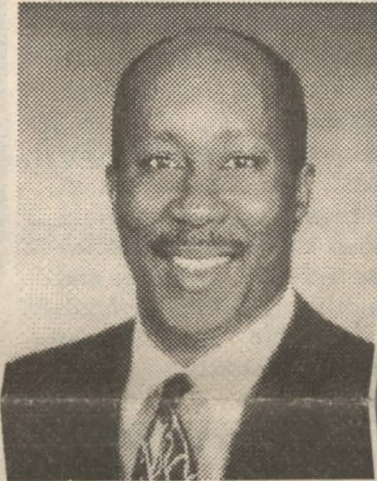
and party lines to rebuild the Dallas economy and get the city moving again.

During his tenure as mayor, Kirk passed seven budgets, which focused on the critical needs of the city while maintaining and even lowering taxes.

While he was mayor, Dallas saw its lowest crime rate in twenty years. Kirk's work to ensure the world-renowned Nasher Collection remained in Dallas resulted in the donation of an outdoor sculpture garden to the city from the Nasher Foundation.

During his tenure, \$600 million was invested in the long-neglected southern part of the city, bringing 13,000 jobs. As a means to

closely interact with citizens, Mayor Kirk utilized a unique one-on-one town hall meeting format, allowing him to meet with them individually.



U.S. Senate candidate Ron Kirk

Celebrating 88 years of Excellence in Brotherhood

Darian Levi
Panther Staff

The Sigma's Celebrate 88 Years of Excellence in Brotherhood.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is an organization of professional and college men that work to promote Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service.

It is their motto to provide, "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity."

The Delta Theta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma has been in existence since 1966, but wasn't officially recognized until 1969 thus becoming the first Greek letter organization on the campus.

Since that time Sigma's have worked diligently to uphold the ideals of true brotherhood. There has been extensive array of programming and activities held by Delta Theta in the past few years. With the evolu-

tion of a Lady of the Dove Scholarship Pageant and the Blue & White Ball, the chapter has suppressed many of its other national counterparts to obtain such honors as "Chapter of the Year", "Collegiate of the Year", "Best Chapter Display", "Alumni of the Year", and many more.

In addition to the numerous awards, being crowned the "Largest Chapter in the Nation" has also made a big impact on Delta Theta as well.

This spring Phi Beta Sigma will foster programs that promote the overall well being of the entire student body. Resume writing, HIV/AIDS Awareness, and the Mad Men Seminar are just a few that have

been done. Nevertheless, there is more to come.

January 09, 1914 played a vital role in the development of the black man and all that is encompassed, with the works of three great men a fraternity was born. A fraternity that has survived world wars, a great depression and racism on every hand. Which only leads us to believe that the saying is true- "If there are great men to be made, Sigma will make them."



Zeta Phi Beta: Community conscious and action oriented

La Donna Martin
Panther Staff



It was out of love that Brother Charles Robert Taylor, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., looked into the eyes of Arizona Cleaver and saw the embodiment of everything that is beautiful about African-American women.

On January 16, 1920 Brother Taylor's dream was fulfilled when five women formed a sisterhood that they dubbed Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Today, Zeta Phi Beta extends to over 600 chapters and 100,000+ members worldwide unified under the founding principles of Scholarship, Service, Sisterly Love, and Finer Womanhood.

Omega Gamma was founded on January 9, 1969 at the home of soror Odessa Tinsley.

The Omega Gamma Chapter began building a foundation based upon Ser-

vice, Scholarship, Charity, Civil and Culture Endeavors, and Finer Woman. Omega Gamma is active within the community and on campus.

Omega Gamma is especially proud of its Storks Nest program in which young expecting mothers are mentored on the importance of prenatal care, and given guidance on what to do once their child has arrived.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is a community conscious and action oriented organization committed to effectively and compassionately meeting the needs of the communities it serves.

The sorors of the Omega Gamma Chapter are equally committed to improving the quality of life in our local communities, while embracing the transitions needed to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

COMING NEXT WEEK

Greek Fraternities and Sororities recognized for Black History Month

Since the beginning of the 20th century Greek Organizations have been a part of African-American History. Continuing next week with the fraternities and Sorority Kappa Alpha Psi, Iota Phi Theta and Sigma Gamma Rho.

INSIDE

Texans draft builds a foundation.

Letter from SGA President Ronnie Davis.



WEATHER

Greater Houston Area weekend forecast: Mostly Sunny and cold nights

•State• •World• •National•

Killer escapes prison

Abilene, Texas
AP- A convicted killer overpowered a correctional officer and escaped from a Texas penitentiary Sunday.

John William Roland, 33, took Sgt. Wesley Hurt's uniform, handcuffed and beat him before escaping in Hurt's pickup truck about 4:45 a.m., said Larry Todd, spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. He said there was no weapon in the truck.

Jurors decide fate

Houston, Texas
AP- The fate of Andrea Yates hinges on whether the jurors who start hearing evidence Monday will believe she knew the difference between right and wrong when she drowned her five young children in their bathtub, then called the police and told police what she had done.

The 37-year-old woman faces two capital murder charges in the June 20 deaths of three of her five children, ranging in age from 7 years to 6 months.

Mother gets charged

Vancouver, B.C.
AP- The mother of a 5-month-old boy who died after being rushed to a hospital was charged with second-degree murder Saturday.

Brandyn Samson was pronounced dead after paramedics rushed him to British Columbia's Children's Hospital Thursday morning.

His mother, Darlene Trick, 28, is scheduled to make her first court appearance Monday.

Refugees take chance

Sinje, Liberia
AP- After losing everything to Sierra Leone's feared rebels, Emmanuel Kwashie was finally starting to rebuild his life in neighboring Liberia. But when the gunfire started again, he didn't hesitate.

Gathering his wife and two small sons, he took to the road this time back to Sierra Leone, where one of West Africa's most savage conflicts was officially declared over last month. "If we are going to die, it is better to go home and die there."

Climber contributes

Golden, Colorado
AP- Jim Whittaker, the first American to climb Mount Everest, is donating most of the gear he used in the 1963 ascent to the American Mountaineering Center.

His ice ax, boots, pack, parka, wind pants and the U.S. flag he carried are among items that will be displayed when the museum opens next year.

"This is the first ever museum in the United States," Whitaker stated.

Threats impossible

Elmendorf AF Base, Alaska
AP- In a star-spangled send-off, President Bush told hundreds of fatigued U.S. soldiers Saturday that "America will not blink" in the fight against terrorism and Osama bin Laden. He vowed to bring that message to Asia.

Amid cheers of "USA! USA!", the commander in chief made a quick refueling stop at this snowy Air Force base to rally U.S. troops and headline a \$400,000 fundraiser for the Alaska Republican Party.



Photo by AP/ Paul Sancya

Halle Berry shows her Silver Bear award after she won the prize for the best actress with her film "Monster's Ball" at the 52nd Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin Sunday, Feb. 17, 2002.

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Gays and lesbians speak out

AP Wire

At age 73, Terry Lawrence is fighting for the right to get married.

It's not about walking down the aisle in a white dress or pledging lifelong commitment. Lawrence and her partner, 77-year-old Carolyn King, have been together 34 years. They celebrated their 25th anniversary with a "recommitment ceremony" and a dance at church with 75 friends.

The couple's motivation to push for a state law allowing same-sex marriage or civil unions is decidedly less romantic.

They want the legal protection married couples have: hundreds of statutes covering inheritance,

property benefits, work leave, access to family in hospitals and a myriad of other matters.

"I became more aware that for us _ and especially for younger people _ it makes such a difference," Lawrence said.

For King and Lawrence, retired professors who live in Hamden, official recognition of their relationship means an easier time setting up inheritances, health care and other end-of-life issues.

More importantly, Lawrence says, a state law would provide protection for gay couples raising families _ including lesbian friends of theirs who have asked them to serve as grandparents to their 5-year-old son.

Lawrence said. "It's really a civil rights matter."

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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The Panther office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday -Friday. The offices are located in Harrington Science, Room 105.

The Revolution will not be televised
Has America become a more organized form of the K.K.K.?



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

As Americans, we have the right to fight and stand up for what is right. But when America has oppressed others, do they have the right to stand up to us?

Countries such as Afganistan, Cuba, Somalia

and many other nations in Africa and in other parts of the world are oppressed daily by America, but is it fair?

Can we really blame Osama Bin Laden for standing up for his beliefs? There is no way for residents of those countries to hold rallies or march to the nation's capital in Washington, D.C.

It was very unfortunate that many people had to lose their lives for the United States to wake up.

For many years America has taken advantage of smaller countries, forcing their leaders into corners that there is no way out of, and it took one simple, treacherous

plan to open our eyes.

There are many other nations that are tired of the U.S. and soon we are not going to just be worrying about flying. We are in the middle of a cultural revolution, and the Revolution will not be televised.

If America continues to oppress countries we will be left alone in world, and have to fend for ourselves.

America imports more than it exports, so just think if all the countries that we steal from like Kenya and Yemen stands up to us and refuse to take our dirty money that we've stolen from senior citizens.

Americans will probably have a relapse of the 1930's.

America has the power to be the most influential countries in the world but until Americans start to realize that taking advantage of other countries will soon come up back to haunt us and, next time they may cause much more damage. So, the real question do other countries have the right to retaliate on America when they've been oppressed or taken advantage of, or has America become a more organized form of the Ku Klux Klan, and if so what do we do about it

Bringing I.M.P.A.C.T to student power
SGA: the ultimate voice of PVAMU students

To The Student Body of Prairie View A&M University:

Greetings! It is my anticipation that the spring semester has been and will be a continued success for you.

The Student Government Association, which is the ultimate voice of the student body at Prairie View A&M University, is working diligently this spring to ensure that all of your needs and concerns are being met.

During the last school year, you elected me, and several others to remind university administration, federal, state, and local officials that 'we can I.M.P.A.C.T the Student Body'.

Therefore, I issue this letter of endurance.

Sometimes, as student leaders, we have a tendency to become so involved with extra curricular activities that our academic course load may get neglected or even go undone.

There is no excuse for negligence of academics, after all the reason we here is to obtain an education.

At the same time, upon accepting the position of Student Body President, I was aware that there were certain tasks and needs that might over extend my personal and academic capacity.

Hence, I had a supportive staff and advisement to guide me through my trying

times. Lately, there have been misconceptions about my academic standing and my position as SGA President, I would like to inform and clarify all minds so that we may progress and see an I.M.A.C.T. on the student body.

I experienced an academic downfall this past fall semester, which was not substantial enough that it would warrant a resignation from my position as President.

The misconceived notion was that I had to resign and that is untrue. I am still working hard as your SGA President and look forward to continuing to serve the STUDENTS of Prairie View A&M

University until my term has expired.

The goals of the Student Government Association include 'Bringing I.M.A.C.T to Student Power', which stands for Innovation, Motivation, Participation, Anticipation, Connection, and Tradition.

We believe if these areas are strengthened then our problems we encounter with the university can be solved easily.

Humbly submitted,

Ronnie Davis Jr.
Student Government President

I am: A Black woman

Dear Editor,

The power that a sister beholds is strong enough to be the source of energy, light, and life to the lives she imprints. Just wanted you to know what a Black woman is.

I am:
- the friend who will help you read and study the true Word and purify your

- soul.
- your sister who lives and faces the struggle with you.
- the woman who respects and adores your masculinity, confidence, and intelligence.
- the one who will always hold you down even after your boys dip you out.
- the hand that pulls you up and out of that seem-

- ingly immortal "bucket of crabs".
- your inspiration and driving force in a world of discrimination and bigotry
- that sister you admire and love for her passion, independence, and strength.
- the bearer of life who delivers courageous minds, unrelenting fire, and elements of Africa.
- I am:

- the very essence of beauty that catches and holds your breath, when you see me smile.
- that delicate being who possesses an aura so classy and sensual that your heart skips a beat just to let you brain know I've entered the room.
- the fragrance that

Black Woman on page 8

Black History Month display recalls Oregon's racist past

It used to be illegal to be black in Oregon

By Joseph B. Frazier
Associated Press Writer

OREGON CITY, Ore. (AP) — Being black in Oregon was once not only a tough row to hoe. It was illegal.

Amid the covered wagons and other memorabilia of Oregon's pioneer past at the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, a Black History Month exhibit reminds Oregonians of a racist era many would rather ignore.

The first blacks to enter Oregon probably were Marcus Lopez, the cabin boy of Capt. Robert Gray, who discovered the Columbia River in 1788, and York, the slave of William Clark, who spent the winter of 1805-06 with the Lewis and Clark expedition near present-day Astoria.

The exhibit, "Black Pioneers of the Oregon Country," which runs until March 13, highlights the lives of several blacks from the pioneer era who distinguished themselves in different ways despite efforts to drive them from the state.

There was Moses Harris, an expert guide who helped lead Marcus Whitman and Henry Spalding to the Oregon Country in 1836, and in 1844 led a wagon train of 500 settlers to Oregon.

The exhibit has a photo of Louis Southworth fondly gazing in his dotage at a portrait of Abe Lincoln.

Southworth arrived in Oregon a slave and settled in Marysville, now Corvallis, with his owner in 1854. His owner let him go to southwest Oregon to mine for gold but he did poorly.

However, as a fiddle player in the mining camps in California and Nevada he did well, returned to Oregon in 1858 and bought his freedom for \$1,000.

Southworth wound up in the Waldport area where he gave land for a school and eventually headed the school board.

The only thing he apparently couldn't do was join the Baptist Church, not because of his race but because the Baptists didn't like his fiddle-playing.

But the exhibit notes that racist laws abounded in the state constitution and survived well into the 1900s.

They haven't been enforced for well over a century, but some remain today despite Oregon's liberal reputation.

They have lurked unnoticed in the Oregon Constitution for decades. It requires a public vote to remove them, and voters will have a chance to do that in November.

Included in wording that would be dropped is language that asked settlers, where they voted in 1857 to adopt the constitution whether they favored slavery or "free Negroes" in Oregon.

Also rescinded would be provisions basing the number of Supreme Court judges on the number of "white inhabitants" of the state.

Historian Chet Orloff, director emeritus of the Oregon Historical Society, said the changes can teach Oregonians a great deal.

"All of these people now have rights in Oregon. ... It's taking out of the document language that would be anachronistic," he said. "These are very good civic lessons for us because they remind us of attitudes that Oregonians once held and remind us that we've come a long way."

Many early leaders were pro-slavery Democrats, and many pioneers were not the flinty New Englanders of legend, but white southerners who brought their politics, their prejudices and sometimes their slaves, with them.

Confederate sympathies ran high in the state during the Civil War.

In 1844 slavery in the Oregon Country was declared illegal, but adult blacks already here were ordered out. Those

who remained were to be whipped with between 20 and 39 lashes every six months until they left.

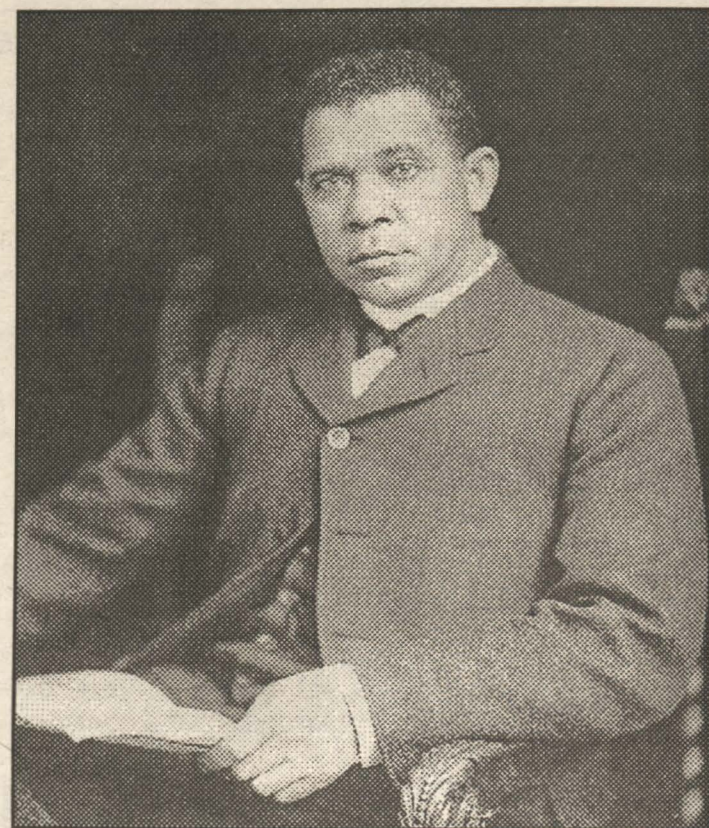
The punishment was quickly amended to forced labor before anybody was whipped, and there is only a record of one black ever being ejected from the state.

On the other hand, the settlers who brought slaves with them were not forced to free them despite the law.

There were three exclusion laws banning blacks from the state that passed before statehood in 1859.

In 1849 it was ruled illegal for blacks to settle in the new Oregon Territory at all, a law that remained until 1854.

The last was added to the state's Bill of Rights by popular vote in 1857, and two years later Oregon became the first state admitted to the union with an exclusion law in its constitution. It was removed in 1926.



Courtesy of Google Images
Booker T. Washington an activist in the fight for racial equality for African-Americans

"Whites and half-breed Indians" could claim land under the 1850 Donation Land Act. Blacks could not.

In 1862 the state imposed a \$5 tax on all blacks, Chinese, Hawaiians and "Mulattos" and banned marriages between whites and anyone more than one-quarter black.

Continued on Page 8

We have a surefire way to predict the future. Hire you to invent it.

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Black man who pretended to be white gets posthumous honors

By John Flesher
Associated Press Writer

BEAR LAKE, Mich. (AP) — Calvin Clark Davis encountered little racism during his childhood, even though he was a light-skinned black in an almost entirely white community.

But he knew it would be a different matter in the U.S. military, then strictly segregated. So when World War II broke out, he enlisted in the Army Air Force, claiming to be white.

Davis flew 50 missions in the Pacific theater, enough to exempt him from further combat. Instead, he volunteered to fight in Europe, where he was killed during a bombing run over Germany.

On Monday, in a ceremony coinciding with Black History Month, Davis' family received seven medals honoring his service. Two members of Congress and several hundred students witnessed the presentation

at Bear Lake High School, where Davis graduated in 1932.

"This is one of the most incredible stories of dedication to country I have ever heard," said U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Holland, who read a description of each medal as Rep. John Conyers, D-Detroit, presented them to Calvin Murphy, a cousin of Davis.

He said Davis was one of many blacks who passed themselves off as white so they wouldn't be relegated to non-combat duty.

"Even (with) the imperfections and the hostility that was shown to them by their country, they loved America," Hoekstra said. "And they were willing to fight and to die for this country that was treating them so unfairly."

Bert Burns, 67, a cousin of Davis' from nearby Brethren, said it was understandable that black servicemen would conceal the truth

about their race if they could.

"I had several cousins who did that," said Burns, who served in the Army after the Korean War and experienced racism even though the military was officially desegregated by then. "It was rough."

Davis was descended from a white plantation owner and a black slave, according to Murphy, who worked for two years to obtain the medals in honor of the relative he never knew.

Orphaned as a child, Davis was raised in poverty by his older sister. He set a regional record in the half-mile run and placed first at a state track meet.

"He could run like a deer," said Lester Reed, 88, who attended school with Davis and still lives in Bear Lake, about 30 miles southwest of Traverse City. "We always tried each other to see who could wrestle the best."

He enlisted in the 5th U.S. Army Air Force in May 1941. He was among a bomber crew that received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism during an attack on a Japanese airfield in 1943. They had left their formation to protect other planes, even though theirs had been damaged.

On Nov. 30, 1944, his plane and another collided during an attack on oil refineries in Merseburg, Germany. Six of the bomber's nine crewmen, including Davis, were killed.

Murphy, 54, a retired National Park Service employee, came across an old newspaper article a couple of years ago that said Davis might have been in line for the Silver Star and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

He contacted numerous agencies, including Hoekstra's office, which determined Davis was eligible

for a number of awards. Presented on Monday were the World War II Victory Medal, the Purple Heart, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He should be honored not only for his heroic efforts as a soldier, but for his willingness to serve a country that did not necessarily want his service," Conyers said.

Murphy, his eyes reddening as he received the medals, said he would put them on display in the local library.

"I'm so proud of his accomplishments," he said. "I just wanted him to get what he's entitled to, and I wanted to make sure his story would live on after I'm gone."

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Tavis Smiley
Presents

Where do we go from here: Chaos or Community?
Black America's Vision for Healing, Harmony, and Higher Ground

Panelist includes: Michael Eric Dyson, Maxine Waters, Jessie Jackson, Sr., Hugh Price, Shirley Franklin, Bernice King, Elaine Jones, Na'im Akbar, Iyanla Vanzant, James Forbes, Al Sharpton, and many more....

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2002-2003 Miss & Mr. Prairie View A&M University Scholarship Pageants

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Application Deadline: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2002

Black Woman from page 3

invades your nose and then stimulates all of your senses.
 - those ways that keep you mystified and suspended 5 levels above heaven.
 - that sweet, so sweet, lady who can touch you once and have you feeling me for the rest of the day.
 - the one who will take you deeper than the depth's of Love Sea.
 - the vision of grace that makes you think you're floating, but it's really just me.
 - the honey dripping from your fingertips that's sweeter than candy kisses.
 - the one whose name gives you goose bumps and leaves you dizzy and stumbling.
 - the sensation that sends your world spinning then leaves you stuck, trying to comprehend whatever it was that I did to you.

Nelson from page 6

Hempstead assistant, Miles agrees, "He gets triple-teamed all the time now and he still scores. Most teams zone us now, but Tyrone doesn't care,

he just plays. He's aggressive, but it's a quiet aggression, he doesn't talk any noise."

His list of schools is growing by the game. Already showing major interest in Nelson are the likes of Alabama, Texas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Baylor, Kansas, Michigan, Texas A&M, Arkansas, TCU, Houston, and Illinois. Most of these schools have already made the 40-mile drive out of Houston to pay their respects.

Nelson, who professes that Duke and North Carolina were his childhood favorites (neither school has shown any early interest yet), considers Kentucky, Oklahoma, Alabama, Texas, and Baylor among his early leaders.

"Tyrone is a late bloomer who's gonna be an NBA player if all goes well," said Eurey. "He had 18 points and 10 rebounds in a matchup early last summer against Amare Stoudamire, who many people consider among the top three players in the country, at the Atlanta Basketball Classic. He dominated Jason Fraser at the end of the summer at the

Pump tournament; Fraser only had six points.

Tyrone has very long arms, he's very quick, mobile, has leaping ability, shoots the ball well and he's a tough kid. He's gonna shock the world this summer."

Nelson will once again be playing for Eurey's Houston Superstars, the team which previously featured Texas' T.J. Ford and Duke's Daniel Ewing. And he's scheduled to compete at this summer's adidas ABCD Camp, held on the campus of Farleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck New Jersey, this July.

"For being a no-name last summer, he's gonna be one of the best players nationally in his class this summer," said Eurey.

"Kansas loves him. Alabama absolutely loves him. And Texas was there when he had the quadruple-double last week."

Nelson's name may not be showing up on many of the top junior lists throughout the country, but a lot of the right people, those who really matter, the college coaches, seem to know who he is.

He's got a world of upside, or at least that's the opinion of more than one college coach, who have seen him play.

"I really like his athleticism, he's got great feet," said one college assistant coach "Tyrone has very good feet, he's light-footed, active and he's got decent hands. He's definitely a very good prospect to have on your junior list."

Olympic from page 6

laughing and cutting up here and there as Rulon always does," Kelley said. "I can tell you that he was talking with our office this afternoon. If you're not in good shape, you can't talk."

Rescuers on snowmobiles and snowshoes launched a search in the dark after Gardner's friends reported him missing at about 7:40 p.m. Thursday, said sheriff's Lt. Tim Malik.

A search plane pilot spotted him at about 8 a.m. Friday.

Gardner was wearing several layers of clothing but was not adequately dressed

for an overnight stay outdoors, said Lee Gardner, Lincoln County (Wyo.) sheriff and a distant relative of the Greco-Roman heavyweight wrestler.

John Q from page 7

Distributor New Line had been hoping Washington would score an Oscar nomination when it put "John Q" on the mid-February schedule last fall, said Russell Schwartz, president of domestic marketing.

The film's main appeal was that the "subject matter resonated with a lot of people, the idea of the Everyman against the system," Schwartz said. "With the little bit of a thriller element and Denzel being nominated, it was a great mix."

Playing in 2,466 locations, "John Q" averaged a healthy \$8,364 a theater, compared with \$6,134 in 2,380 theaters for "Crossroads" and \$4,526 in 2,605 cinemas for "Return to Never Land." "Hart's War" had a so-so average of \$3,361 in 2,459 theaters, and "Super Troopers" did \$3,487 in 1,778 locations.

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