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Panther- February 2002 - Vol. LXXIX, No.20

Prairie View A&M University

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THE PANTHER

panther@pvamu.edu · Volume 79, Issue 20 · February 27, 2002

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Health Watch:

AIDS in the Black Community

Kimberly Koledoye
Panther Staff

The black community has been home to too many epidemics. Although AIDS is a disease that has plagued our nation, as well as the world, for a long time it has affected the black community the most.

The disease is plaguing our entire nation tremendously not to mention the epidemic in South Africa.

New cases reported are on the rise but here, in the black community of America this disease is taking its toll.

When thinking of the #1 cause for death in African-Americans between the ages of 25-44 one might say gun violence, cancer, or car accidents; but

the sad truth is that AIDS is killing this population.

African-Americans comprise only 12% of the population of the United States but sadly we comprise 35% of all AIDS cases in this country.

People may think that AIDS is being contained and that the numbers are down but the reality is astounding.

One in fifty black men have AIDS; whereas one in two hundred-fifty white men have the disease.

Why are the numbers so far spread? Detection is the answer. The black community is notorious for poor health care.

We sometimes do not go to the doctor until we are severely ill; from heart disease to asthma to diabetes this is a proven fact. As a whole the disease is being undetected for so long that we are just

passing it on without knowledge.

African-American women are especially a risk factor, although one in every 160 black women are infected.

In New York State, 56% of children under the age of twelve with AIDS are black children. These children mostly entered the world with this disease and unfortunately will leave the world the same way.

This epidemic is like none other and had gone unattended for so long until 1998. In this year President Bill Clinton was prompted by the Congressional black Caucus to declare AIDS as a "state of emergency" in the black community.

AIDS continued on Page 5

Making a difference in the history of African American Men

Torry A. Richardson
Special to Panther Staff

1963 was a turbulent year. History making events occurred that would radically & permanently affect the country as a whole. A highlight of this eventful year was the formation of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. On September 19, twelve Brown and Gold brothers gave birth to the youngest African-American fraternity in the National Pan-Hellenic Council whose sole purpose was the development & perpetuation of scholarship, leadership, citizenship, fidelity & brotherhood among all men.

Born on the campus of Morgan State Col-

lege, now known as Morgan State University, the entity fondly known as Iota, has flourished to become an international powerhouse with chapter all across the United States and the Caribbean Islands. Some very curious and determined students, eager to learn more about a fraternity that was challenging the existing norms, chartered the Illustrious Lambda Chapter on the campus of Prairie View A&M University in the spring of 1971.

From the beginning of its existence, Iota Phi Theta has sought to "Make a Difference." This commitment to service has continued and manifested through national projects such as involvement with the National Association

IOTA continued on Page 5



The Brothers of Iota Phi Theta

Quality proceeds over quantity

Andrea Kirven
Special to the Panther



The ladies of the Delta Alpha Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc

The torch of perfection, elegance and grace was lit on November 12, 1922 at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Withstanding racism, violence and brutality, seven profound young women created the first African American sorority incorporated at a predominately white institution.

The Delta Alpha embarked on the world in December of 1969 on the campus of Prairie View A&M University. Since their beginning the ladies of Delta Alpha have created a dynasty of pride.

They continuously work hard for their community and their nation through service projects that stimulate the hearts and souls of those they help. The most recent events that the ladies are

proud to speak upon impacted the lives of people in the Waller, Hempstead and Prairie View area.

Just a few are, "Buckle Up America" where they taught students on the campus of Prairie View the importance of wearing a seat belt, "Operation Big Book Bag" where the ladies adopted eleven children from Jones Intermediate school and purchased brand new school supplies and backpacks for them, "Wee Savers" in which the ladies taught the Waller County parents the importance of starting their child's college fund early and numerous other activities.

The ladies are also continuously taking on projects in an effort to im-

SGR continued on Page 5

COMING NEXT WEEK

Featurette on the P.E.A.C.E Project.

Prominent Prairie View Pioneer Mr. William Chapman

Celebrating Black History 365

March Madness: The Road to Final Four

INSIDE

Are we minority or the majority

Letter to the editor.

Kappas on page 4



WEATHER

Greater Houston Area weekend forecast: Cold and windy 27 degrees on Wednesday

•State•

State's oldest church

Galveston, Texas

AP- The Avenue L Missionary Baptist Church, believed to house the oldest black congregation in Texas, began its 163rd year of worship Sunday.

Five slaves founded the congregation in 1840 in the budding seaport that would become the state's largest city later that century.

The original building is gone but the "new" church - built in 1900 - still stands, along with a larger brick sanctuary completed in 1917.

The buildings will get new life beginning this year as a four-phase renovation project gets under way.

Insane prison inmate

Livingston, Texas

AP- Amid streams of gibberish and nonsense, Texas prison inmate Monty Delk spouts that he is the warden at death row.

He also claims to be King Louie of England, former House Speaker and Texas Congressman Sam Rayburn, a police chief, commando, submarine captain and judge. He recently signed a document with the name "Vito Corleone" of "The Godfather" fame.

"I have no control of my life," Delk said during a recent interview with The Associated Press.

•World•

Pre-election violence

Haraere, Zimbabwe

AP- A van carrying election observers was stoned Sunday by youths apparently loyal to President Robert Mugabe who mistook them for opposition supporters, witnesses said.

A lawmaker from Botswana - part of an observer team representing the Southern African Development Community - was slightly injured by broken glass in the attack.

According to witnesses, the youths throwing stones at the convoy wore T-shirts emblazoned with President Robert Mugabe's picture. A second observer was also slightly injured said Andries Botha.

Warships pass Suez

Cairo, Egypt

AP- Three British warships passed through the Suez Canal Sunday on their way to join the U.S.-led international naval coalition in the Indian Ocean.

The HMS Ocean helicopter carrier, with 18 helicopters and four amphibious landing craft, was expected to replace the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious as the senior ship in Britain's contribution to the war against terrorism. The Illustrious arrived in the Gulf in September, ahead of war games with Oman, and stayed on throughout the war in Afghanistan.

•National•

Global crossing deal

Rochester, New York

AP- Troubled communications giant Global Crossing Ltd. has offered its U.S. employees lump-sum payments to leave the company next month.

Employees must apply for the voluntary package by Wednesday. Those accepted will receive a cash payment, based on their salary, rank and years with the company. Their last day at work will be March 8, according to a company statement released over the weekend.

The company, which filed for bankruptcy protection Jan. 28, employs about 800 people in the Rochester area - about 16 percent of its

Controversial plan

Charlotte, North Carolina

AP- The new student assignment plan for Charlotte-Mecklenburg County schools marks the first time in years that officials aren't drawing districts with concern about race, says Superintendent Eric Smith.

When school starts in August, Smith said, the question will no longer be the mix of skin colors in classes, but whether all schools can provide a quality education.

Some see the new plan unveiled Friday as the start of a new era of opportunity. Others see it as a betrayal of children who need public schools the most.

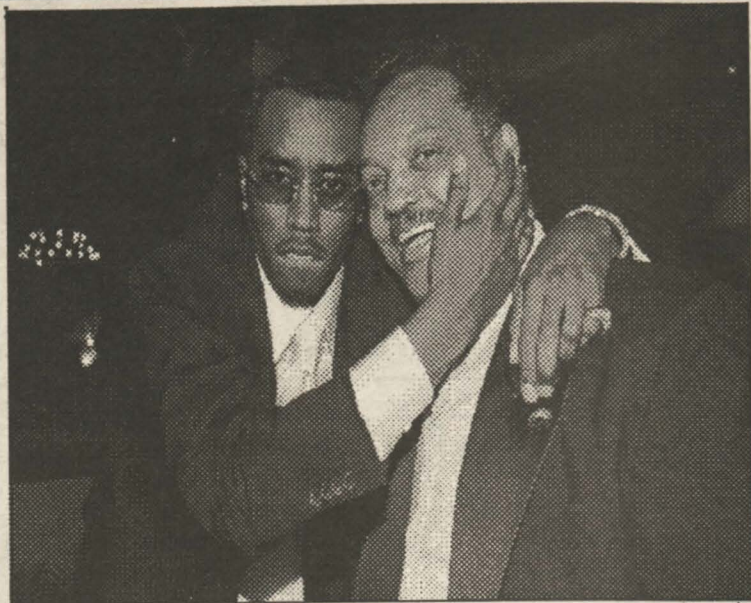


Photo by AP/ Denny's, Jill Connelly

Sean Combs, left, poses for a photo with the Rev. Jesse Jackson during a NAACP Image Awards post reception in Los Angeles, Saturday, Feb. 23, 2002.



Photo by AP/ Chris Polk

Ray Mercer, left, lands a blow to Troy Weida during a scheduled 10-round heavyweight bout in Atlantic City, N.J., Saturday, Feb. 23, 2002. Mercer won on a knockout 28 seconds into the fight.

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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Get Real: Are we the majority or minority African-Americans vs. AIDS



By Tenesia S. Mathews Editor-in-Chief

then how can African American women be the majority of any census.

Isn't it ironic that when there is something good happening in America the majority race, Caucasians, take the credit for that accomplishment, but when subjects such as STDs, cancer, heart diseases and other life altering diseases especially AIDS, are raised all fingers are pointed at the African-American community mainly African American women.

How can we be the majority of anything in any aspect of America if we are minorities? And if we are just the majority of cases reported then why does America label us as irresponsible? If we actually report our sicknesses to our physicians then we're not irresponsible.

AIDS is an American made disease, and more people in Africa are dying from it than Americans. Why? How did AIDS get to Africa? Most view Africa as a country not as a continent. A new study has found that AIDS was responsible for roughly 40 percent of all deaths among South Africans between the ages of 15 and 49.

Now isn't it dumbfounding that one of the most promi-

nent African countries now has hundreds of South African babies born with HIV every day. Now I ask again How did AIDS get into Africa?

African Americans have a history of being the target of ridicule of America since the beginning of time. But this time America has

taken that ridicule too far. No longer are we going to allow society to dictate the way we as African-American live, act, and feel.

Since Monday, the Ladies of the Eta Beta Chaper of Delta Sigma Theta have been hosting an AIDS awareness week.

Activate Intelligence: Desire Safety
February 25-28, 2002

Monday	Prayer & Praise 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday	Prayer & Praise 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise 10:00 a.m.
Thursday	Prayer & Praise 10:00 a.m.

Sponsored by the ladies of the Eta Beta Chapt.

Student survey measures campus climate

Mr. PVAMU 2001-2002, Michael Davis, takes his position seriously. As a result of numerous concerns raised by fellow students, Michael initiated a student survey.

The survey seeks information about the level of students' satisfaction with housing, safety, and social life.

Davis hopes to secure at least a sample of 500 surveys to give students and school administrators a fair picture of student life.

According to Davis, he focused primarily on housing because "housing is a chronic problem at PVAMU. The housing shortage directly affects the student body and

campus climate." Davis believes all students should take an interest in the survey's subject matter.

"I think sometimes students worry too much about who did what, and when and where it happened- instead of checking out things that really matter."

The survey's safety section includes an open-ended question. Davis wants to solicit suggestions for improvement in campus safety.

"The information students provide can offer some solid solutions for improving campus security," Davis stated.

Other safety questions address whether the surveyed respondent has been the victim of a crime and, if so, whether or not the person reported it.

If the student did not report the crime, a follow-up question asks the respondent to

identify the reason(s) for not reporting.

Davis included a section on social life, as a part of his quest to student pride. Specific questions ask students to rate the level of personal satisfaction with the Department of Student Activities & Leadership and Student Government Association.

Personally, Davis supports a mandatory orientation program as a means for infusing student pride in freshmen.

He suggests expanding the Panther Advisor Leaders (PALS) concept for all incoming students. Davis adamantly stated, "If you are trying to teach someone to be a leader, why wait until their sophomore year and then (referring to PALS) make them pay for the experience."

Davis expects to publish the survey resulting in a housing booklet prepared for the students. The booklet will include information about housing opportunities in Prairie View and the surrounding area. In addition, Davis will provide a section on landlord/tenant issues that explain some of the relevant laws that affect deposits, evictions, and confiscating property for non-payment of rent.

Regarding this undertaking, Mike said, "I hope the survey leads students to ask questions about other important areas, such as student fees and overall customer service at the University."

Sincerely,
Darian D. Levy

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Kappa Alpha Psi spread love to community

By Kappa Alpha Psi

Special to the Panther

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. was founded on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington Indiana, on January 5, 1911. The fraternity's fundamental purpose is achievement.

Kappa Alpha Psi is different from all other fraternal organizations because it was founded on a white campus when racial tension was very high.

At that time in history white people didn't want black men to meet to discuss any type of business because the whites knew that collective thoughts would help the blacks remove themselves from the struggle.

Fashioning achievement as its purpose, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. began uniting black college men of culture, patriotism and honor in a

bond of fraternity.

The Zeta Beta

chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. was chartered May 15, 1970 on the campus of Prairie View A&M University.

This was the birth of the "Mighty Zoo" as we know it.

The Zeta Beta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. has done numerous things in the community such as help high school students prepare for their Black History program

at Spring High School in Spring, TX. basketball teams in which they provide drinks and snacks, as well as moral support for both teams.



The brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi, Prairie View A&M University

They also sponsor little league football and of Kappa Alpha Psi also hosts the sickle cell walk-a-thon.

The Krimson and Kream scholarship pageant is an annual pageant to further the education of two young ladies.

They also contribute nationally by donating money to the Kappa foundation and the Kappa league, which are summer programs for little kids and have also received the chapter of the year award for 2001-2002.

Kappa Alpha Psi was founded on the up lifting of young African-American males, called "The guide right" program.

This program was established to give African-American males a positive role model.

The chapter is dedicated to "Taking undergraduate achievement to the next level!"

Houston AIDS rate climbs 30 percent in a year

By Houston AP

AP Wire

HOUSTON (AP) — The city's AIDS rate has climbed nearly 39 percent while the rest of the country seems to be on the decline, according to a recent study.

The estimates, which counted the rate of new cases between June 2000 and June 2001, showed that 275 new cases contributed to an average of 21.2 cases per 100,000 people in the Harris County area. That's up from 15.3 cases per 100,000 the previous year, according to the study released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

But, the study also showed that the rate in U.S. metropolitan areas declined overall.

Ahmed Adu-Oppong, director of Thomas Street Clinic, which provides HIV and AIDS care for the Harris County Hospital District, said a reason for the spike might be increased HIV testing after Mayor Lee Brown declared a "State of Emergency" in 1999 to raise AIDS awareness in the black community.

The declaration came after reports that blacks made up more than 60 per-

cent of all new HIV infections in Harris County.

After Brown sounded the alarm, drug companies paired with Houston agencies to provide AIDS testing.

"We're not going to see that kind of increase next year, provided we continue the awareness campaign," Adu-Oppong said in Saturday's editions of the Houston Chronicle. "If you can test them in early stages of infection and get them into care, it will take a longer time before they enter the AIDS category."

Four metropolitan areas with the highest AIDS rates saw significant declines. New York City's AIDS rate per 100,000 fell to 49.4 from 67.4. San Francisco dropped to 39.9 from 52.1.

Miami's rate increased by nearly 4 percent, to 60.1 AIDS cases per 100,000 people. The CDC said that AIDS has declined in most populations, but increases were seen in some groups, including women and people infected through heterosexual contact.

"In AIDS by ethnicity and year of diagnosis, we have seen blacks climbing and fairly dramatically, Hispanics climbing less dramatically, and whites going down dra-

AIDS from page 1

lion dollars a year has been spent on educating the Black community about AIDS as well as research to help find a cure.

The time is now for a change. We are fighting a war on AIDS in our own backyards and most of us are totally unaware.

In 1982 Blacks comprises 26% of AIDS cases, by 1983 African Americans comprised one third of all cases from that year on.

We cannot dwell on the past, so today must be a day of change. Detection is the key; the only way we can stop the spread of this disease is by testing.

Once one is aware of the disease adequate steps can be taken to prevent new infections.

The scariest factor about all of the statistics presented is that these are of reported AIDS cases; imagine who is walking around not knowing that they are infected.

Take measures to make sure that you do not become part of the statistics.

For more information about this disease or just on how you can help contact the Red Cross or visit www.AIDS.org.

IOTA from page 1

for the Advancement of Color People, the National Federation for the Blind, the National Sickle Cell Foundation, & the Iota Youth Alliance. In conjunction with the national projects, the lambda chapter brothers, which includes: Mandrell Buford, Josh Watson, Torrie A. Richardson, Rick Baker, Devon Calhoun, Robert Woodards, Dave Jones & Roshon George have an exciting semester planned for the students of Prairie View A&M University.

Events coordinated for the spring semester range from clothing & food drives to seminars dealing with the empowerment of the African-American community to multiple step shows & parties.

As Iota Phi Theta continues to make meaningful contributions to society in general, with particular emphasis in the African-American community.

Throughout America, Iota Phi Theta has come to represent excellence in all areas. The fraternity is, and shall forever remain dedicated to its founders' vision of "Building a tradition, not resting upon one!"

SGR from page 1

projects in an effort to impact some of the worthy causes that you hear about on a daily basis.

They have recently taken up the challenge of participating in the Avon 3 day walk for breast cancer where they will each be tested mentally and physically in taking a 60-mile long walk from Dallas to Fort Worth, Texas.

When asked why they would participate in such a grueling event, Tiffney Bell, the chapter historian stated "A few sorors have had people in their family diagnosed with breast cancer and we felt that it would only be right for a sister to help a sister with a cause so worthy."

The service that they ladies constantly so is no walk in the park, but even through their dedication, when people see the ladies of the Dedicated Delta Alpha Chapter, see a bond that can't be broken, and as the reigning southwest regions undergraduate chapter of the year, they will continue to prove that one sister can make a difference but a family of sisters can move nations.

Correction from 2/20/2002 Carol Mosely Brown was the first African American U.S. Senator

are white and 16 percent are Hispanic.

percent of AIDS cases in Houston, Hispanics 15 percent, she said. In HIV infections, 59 percent are black, 25 percent

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Friday, March 1, 2002
8:30 am - 5 pm
Community Center

WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO BRING?
VOTER REGISTRATION CARD OR SOME FORM OF IDENTIFICATION

This message sponsored by City of PrairieView Councilmember Sylvia Cedillo
P.O. Box 356, Prairie View, Texas 77446

Please join us for fellowship and Bible Study in the All Faiths Chapel Tuesdays @ 6pm



Is it relevant for our people?

Some people want to dismiss the Bible as a European book. But, written in the Middle East and Asia Minor, the Bible existed prior to its acceptance in Europe, and black people appear throughout its pages.

Many of our ancestors were enlightened by its message, transformed by its calling, and empowered by its truth. Its pages showed them they were children of the Most High God, with inherent value as human beings. Jesus' message in the Bible gave them hope.

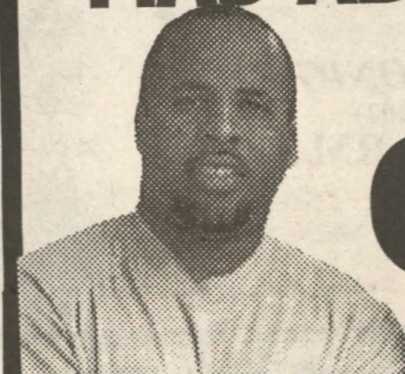


courage, strength and comfort. Not only for our forefathers and mothers, but for us...knowing Jesus is not a passive escapism, but an active relationship that empowers us to live responsibly and become agents of change.

Have you received false information about Jesus? Is it worth knowing the truth? To learn about the many African Americans who have followed Jesus, and the many false myths aimed at us, see the feature article "The Truth About Jesus" at EveryStudent.com.

EveryStudent.com
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DEMOCRAT

Trading Places



By Marvin Anderson Sports Editor

With the NBA playoffs just around the corner several NBA teams hurried to make trades in order to make a run in the playoffs.

In perhaps what was the biggest trade, my beloved Dallas Mavericks pulled off a 7 player deal with the Denver Nuggets.

The move sent lackadaisical forward Juwan Howard, guard Tim Hardaway, and seldom used forward Donnell Harvey to Denver.

The Mavs received versatile center Raef LaFrentz, trigger happy guard Nick Van Exel, veteran guard Avery Johnson, and defensive stopper Tariq Abdul Wahad.

This move allows the Nuggets to free up salary cap space, which the Nuggets will use for free agent spending.

The Mavs got front court help in LaFrentz, a spark off the bench in Van Exel, veteran leadership and championship experience in Johnson.

The Indiana Pacers shipped disgruntled forward Jalen Rose, guard Travis Best, and Norm Richardson to the hapless Chicago Bulls.

The Bulls shipped guard Ron Mercer, forward Ron Artest, center Brad Miller, and guard Kevin Ollie.

Surprisingly the Bulls seem to have gotten the best of this deal, they are undefeated since the trade last Monday.

Hopefully, some of these moves will allow these teams to move a step closer to Shaq & Kobe, I mean the NBA Championship.

Jordan to undergo surgery, season's status unknown

By ESPN Sports Special to ESPN.com

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Michael Jordan will have surgery on his injured right knee and his status for the rest of the season is uncertain, Washington Wizards coach Doug Collins said Tuesday.

Jordan was placed on the injured list for only the second time in his career, meaning he will miss at least five games, starting with tonight's home game against Portland.

"Michael has decided to have an arthroscopic procedure. It will be done in the next couple of days," Collins said. "Michael is very disappointed."

As Collins spoke, Jordan was meeting with team physician Stephen Haas, who will perform the surgery.

"He's got to go in there and just find out what's causing the irritation and why his knee is continuing to swell," Collins said.

"And depending on how much work he has to do, that will be the deciding factor in how long Michael will be out."

Jordan's only previous major injury came in 1985, when he broke his left foot and missed 64 games in his second season with the Chicago Bulls.

Other than his two retirements, he has not missed more than four games in a season since, and he didn't miss any during his final three years in Chicago.

As many predicted when he made his comeback last September, the 39-year-old Jordan has found that his own body is his biggest obstacle. Sources say he has been working out as hard as ever this season, but he just hasn't been able to get the knee right.

It's still too early to say whether Jordan will have to shut it down completely. For now he remains upbeat.

He reportedly chose to get the procedure done now so he could be back in time for a brutal six-game Western road trip that could determine the Wizards' playoff fate.

Look for Jordan to

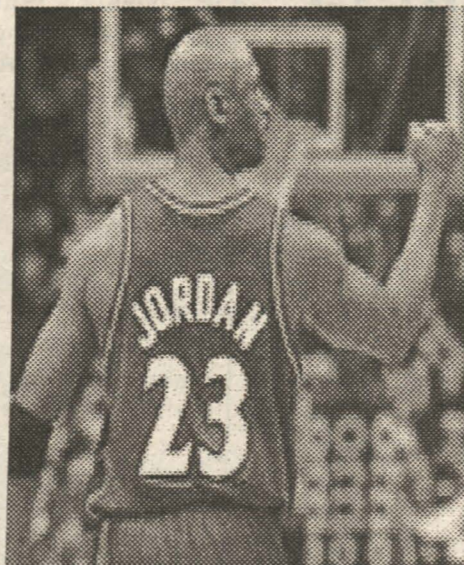
suck it up and get back on the court this season, even if they have to amputate.

He didn't let the Bad Boys, Patrick Ewing, Charles Barkley or the pizza in Utah stop him. There's no way he'll give in to Arthur Itis.

Jordan's knee has been giving him problems since he began workouts in preparation for his second comeback.

The injury was initially diagnosed as tendinitis, and he had fluid drained from the knee at least three times, most recently before a game at Miami on Saturday.

He also banged the



Courtesy of the Official Website of Michael Jordan

Michael Jordan will have knee surgery, and will miss at least five games.

knee in a collision with teammate Etn Thomas 2 1/2 weeks ago.

But team officials are now concerned there might be a more chronic, arthritic condition in the knee.

He has been unable to drive to the basket with his usual vigor, and he took himself out of Saturday's game against the Heat with 6:27 to go, and the outcome still in doubt.

"I'm getting old," he said after the game.

"It's a sign that this might be coming to a closure as to where my career is heading. The body sends you messages, and tonight my body won."

Jordan had to overcome broken ribs, back spasms and tendinitis in his wrist to make this comeback.

He also lost about 30 pounds.

Jordan's surgery couldn't come at a worse time for the Wizards, who have lost five straight and seven of eight since the All-Star break to drop to 27-28.

Jordan to miss two games already this season at San Antonio on Dec. 4, and at Detroit last Wednesday.

Jordan was not available for comment, but his remarks and his one-dimensional play in recent days made it clear that his knee was hurting.

He has been unable to drive to the basket with his usual vigor, and he took himself out of Saturday's game against the Heat with 6:27 to go, and the outcome still in doubt.

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Harris' book doesn't pass expected outcome

By Yolanda Hadnot Panther Staff

"And This Too Shall Pass" by E. Lynn Harris narrates the story of a celibate, gay, black, football player Zurich.

He struggles with his sexuality and his faith in God.

His strong background in God is rooted from his grandmother Mama Cee.

Mia Miller, rising black sports anchor accuses Zurich of sexual assault.

With his new-found

career in jeopardy Zurich employs attorney Tamela Coleman.

Meanwhile, gay sportswriter Sean Elliot is covering the whole scandal.

Mia and Tamela both suffer with their careers, relationships, themselves and men.

This novel is truly a soap opera.

The major plot begins when he resists the advances of Mia Miller and finds himself accused of rape.

The reader can al-

ready foretell Zurich is innocent which makes the story truly predictable, and also makes for very little suspense.

Sean, a starving sportswriter who frequently indulges in one night stands with men, has just been assigned the story on Zurich.

Sean falls in love with Zurich and finds God.

This novel is a twist of sex, lies, and immaturity. Mama Cee the "perfect grandmother" has more wisdom and spirituality than even this book can allow.

Harris's characterization and dialogue are too inadequately crafted to hold readers' attention.

The so-called attempt to give readers the behind the scenes look at football life failed.

This book was unbearably predictable and the reader might wonder if this book would ever pass.

Harris authors other books such as "Invisible Life" and Just As I Am."



E. Lynn Harris: black board best seller, author of "And This Too Shall Pass"

Aaliyah's Vampire "Queen" reigns at weekend box

By David Germain AP Movie Writer

Audiences went vampire hunting as "Queen of the Damned" featuring the late pop singer Aaliyah as an ancient bloodsucker, debuted as the top weekend movie with \$15.2 million.

"John Q," last weekend's No. 1 film, dropped to second place with \$12.5 million, pushing its 10-day total to \$39.9 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Kevin Costner's supernatural love story "Dragonfly" opened in third place with \$10.4 million.

Though generally trashed by critics, "Queen of the Damned" got a big boost from young fans of Aaliyah, who was killed in a plane crash last summer.

Women under 25 made up 30 to 40 percent of the film's audience, said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., which released "Queen of the Damned."

"Her fans liked the movie," Fellman said. "I think they were drawn by their loyalty and curiosity and desire to see Aaliyah on the big screen."

Based on Anne Rice's "Vampire Chronicles," the movie stars Aaliyah as the

mother of all bloodsuckers and Stuart Townsend as the vampire Lestat.

Playing in 2,511 locations, "Queen of the Damned" averaged a healthy \$6,035 a theater, compared with a \$5,000 average in 2,505 theaters for "John Q" and \$4,148 in 2,507 cinemas for "Dragonfly."

Director Mira Nair's "Monsoon Wedding" had an impressive debut in limited release, grossing \$66,000 at two New York City theaters.

The ensemble comedy follows the clash of tradition and modern times during frenzied preparations for a wedding in Delhi, India.



Distributor USA the industry grossed a record \$8.35 billion.

Films plans to expand the film to more cities over the next two weekends. Overall, the top 12 films grossed \$85.5 million, up 14 percent from the same weekend last year.

For the first two months of the year, Hollywood's revenues are running virtually even with the pace of last year, when

The early part of 2001 was dominated by "Hannibal," a February release that grossed \$165 million.

This year hasn't produced a major hit, while holdovers from last year drew strong audiences.

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP

IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PANTHER BLACK HISTORY QUIZ BOWL

TONIGHT! TONIGHT! TONIGHT!
(Wednesday, February 27, 2002)
Harrington Science Bldg., RM 122
7:00 PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL EXT. 2018 Students needing special assistance, call 2610

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

Contestant Applications Available in Harrington Science Bldg., RM 108
Application Deadline Extended: FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2002



The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen
Celebrate Black History Month!!



- You must have a grade of 'C' or better in your developmental class(es) to pre-register for Fall 2002.
- You must take the TASP at least once every academic year.
- Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick TASP testing schedule or call 936/857-2747.



- March 1 Housing Fee due
- March 7-9 Mid-term exams
- March 11-16 Spring Break

- Bldg #36 sponsored a dinner and a "Conversation with Ms. Thomas (Nursing Advisor)
- Bldg #38 sponsored an interactive forum, "Tuesday Night Live" with their Faculty Fellow, Dr. Linda Garner. On 2/28 30 students will attend the ballet "Cleopatra."
- Bldg #41's Faculty Fellow, Dr. Laurette Foster will provide pre-midterm math tutoring on Tuesdays from 11 AM - 2 PM in the 2nd floor lounge.
- Bldg# 45 gives a 'thumbs-up' to the 2nd and 3rd floor study groups!!
- Bldg #46 is sponsoring a voter registration drive

- Why are Phase 1 and 2 so dangerous? 2. Who was at the Alabama A&M game? 3. Why did the AKAs use everyone's steps but their own at Greek Olympiad? 4. Was that fall Erin took apart of the Delta's routine? 5. What's the holdup on MIP? 6. Why were the GENTS better than the Frats at Greek Olympiad? 7. Why were the Q's so greased up at Greek Olympiad? 8. Who was the man in the back of alumni with a leather cap and suede shoes? 9. How many of you were late Monday trying to see the fight behind alumni? 10. Who was the guy that stole three bags of chips from P.V. Grocery? 11. If everyone knows about the line would it still be considered underground? 12. When is the Panther going to learn how to spell Pershing right? 13. And who actually cares? 14. Does anyone know the guys in the Ebony Debonairé pageant? 15. How many Kappas does it take to screw in a light bulb? 16. Is B.S.M. really saved? 17. How many people wish we had a Frenchy's? 18. Who told Dean Lewter to break up the fight behind Alumni? 19. Why does Prairie View procrastinate with scholarship money? 20. What do you think?

Want to tell us what you think? Would you like to submit any questions you may have to The Panther? Please bring your comments to Rm.105 Harrington Science or email panther@pvamu.edu. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther.

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For Details Call

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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.