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## Panther- April 2003 - Vol. LXXX, NO.24

Prairie View A&M University

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# PVAMU

panther@pvamu.edu · Volume 80, Issue 24 · April 16, 2003

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Inside  
this week:



What Easter traditions do you have?

Page 4



Panthers put fire into the game of tennis.

Page 7



Trina proves why she's "the baddest chick."

Page 10

## Panther pride soars at local business



Photo courtesy of SIFE

Owners of the Shell Store, Muhammad Baqui and Ahad Chowdhury, and members of the Students in Free Enterprise pose behind the Prairie View A & M University flag.

By Candice Grizzell

Panther Staff

In honor of Prairie View A&M University, the Shell store, located at Highway 290 and FM 1488, is flying the university flag. It is the first business in the area to do so. The owners, Muhammed Baqui and Ahad Chowdhury said they hung the flag outside their store to show pride in the university.

However, when the store first opened for business Baqui and Chowdhury displayed Texas A&M and University of Texas flags. Students expressed concern in

*The Panther's* student poll when asked, "What do you think about the new Shell station not hoisting the PV flag?"

According to Frederick V. Roberts, a staff member of the Division of Student and Enrollment Management, the organization Students in Free Enterprise took the initiative to find out why the store did not have a PVAMU flag.

"Come to find out, the owners are graduates of Texas A&M and the University of Texas," said Roberts. "Mr. Baqui and Mr. Chowdhury wanted to include Prairie

See Flag page 12

## Step show gives fitting climax to Spring Fest

By Candace Simpson

Panther Staff

Students came to "set their Spring Fest out" as the Greeks and non-Greeks battled it out for the chance to be crowned the step show champs.

Contrary to popular belief the event did not bring out as many people as a step show normally would. There were about half as many people in attendance as compared to past years. Some people felt the Texas Beach Party, which was held in Galveston during the same weekend was the reason stu-

dents were not in attendance.

Orok Orok and Simone Hollis hosted the PV Stomp Down held in the "Baby Dome" on Saturday night. Judges from several different organizations took part in this event to ensure that the competition was rated fairly without bias to any particular organization.

Participants in the step show included KKPsi, Rho Chi Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, KKI, Alpha Phi Alpha, Zeta Phi Beta, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Delta Sigma Theta.

As the judges noted,

See Step Show page 12

## Presidential hopefuls trimmed to 11 Search committee plans campus interviews

By Barbara Ramirez

Panther Staff

The search advisory committee for the next president of Prairie View A&M University has reduced the number of candidates from 26 to 11, according to committee chair Jerry Gaston.

Gaston, who is deputy chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, said the committee will further trim the candidates to about four to six finalists who will be invited for campus interviews.

Gaston said, "The

committee will announce the schedule for candidates to meet with various groups during the campus visits." He said, "The plan is to have visits in late April, early May, and before spring semester concludes."

According to the committee chair, the interviews will follow a structure that includes meeting with the university's executive staff, the Student Government Association, and the search committee. Afterward, the candidates will meet with Interim President Willie Tempton.

Lastly, an open forum will be held for everyone to meet the candidates.

Gaston said, "After on-campus meetings, recommendations will be made to the chancellor for his consideration. He will then decide which and how many candidates will be presented to the Board of Regents who will make the final decision."

Gaston told *The Panther* that the exact dates for on campus interviews are not certain because, "we can't ask them to come if we don't know who they are."

•State•

PV's Seven Day Forecast

**Wed Apr 16** AM Clouds / PM Sun  
80°/61°

**Thu Apr 17** Partly Cloudy  
84°/62°

**Fri Apr 18** Cloudy  
81°/65°

**Sat Apr 19** Scattered T-Storms  
81°/64°

**Sun Apr 20** Partly Cloudy  
78°/54°

**Mon Apr 21** Partly Cloudy  
77°/57°

**Tue Apr 22** Partly Cloudy  
79°/59°

Courtesy of weather.com

•National•

Lewinsky to host new dating game on Fox

NEW YORK (AP) — Handbag maker, gossip-column fodder and former presidential intern Monica Lewinsky has a new gig: host of a dating game on Fox called "Mr. Personality."

"Mr. Personality," which debuts April 21, will feature a stockbroker named Hayley and 20 masked men vying for her affection. Hayley must choose a man based on his inner beauty.

In addition to hosting the show, Lewinsky offers dating advice in her role as Hayley's confidante.

Lewinsky is not sure if she'll continue in television. She's still designing purses and she's considering law school or graduate school in psychology.

Fire kills five in student-occupied house near Ohio State campus

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A suspicious fire started early Sunday as a college student's 21st birthday party was breaking up, killing five people and injuring three. One of the injured, a 20-year-old man, was in critical condition with burns.

About 80 people had been at the party, and 10 to 20 were still in the student-occupied house near Ohio State University when the fire started around 4 a.m.

The cause of the fire has been ruled suspicious according to arson and homicide investigators and police reports.

Firefighters found the bodies scattered throughout the house. Identities of the victims were not immediately released.

•World•

Pakistani leader says his country is not U.S. target after Iraq

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali reacted angrily to comments by the Malaysian prime minister, who said he thought the United States would attack Pakistan after finishing up its war in Iraq.

There is "no justification for any such assumption or assertion," Jamali said Sunday.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad last week told Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera that Syria, Pakistan and Iran could be the next U.S. targets.

Mohamad also said the main purpose of the war on Iraq was to protect Israel.

Pakistan is a key ally of the United States in the war on terror, but its government has called for a quick end to the war.

Four men convicted in deadly 2002 bombing outside U.S. Consulate

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A Pakistani court convicted four men on Monday in a deadly June 2002 car bombing outside the U.S. Consulate in this southern port city, court officials said. Two of the men were given the death penalty and the other two received life terms. One man was acquitted.

The four men - all alleged members of the Harkat-ul Mujahedeen al-Almi Islamic extremist group - were convicted of murder and other charges by the special anti-terrorism court.

"Your Pops Don't Like Me..."

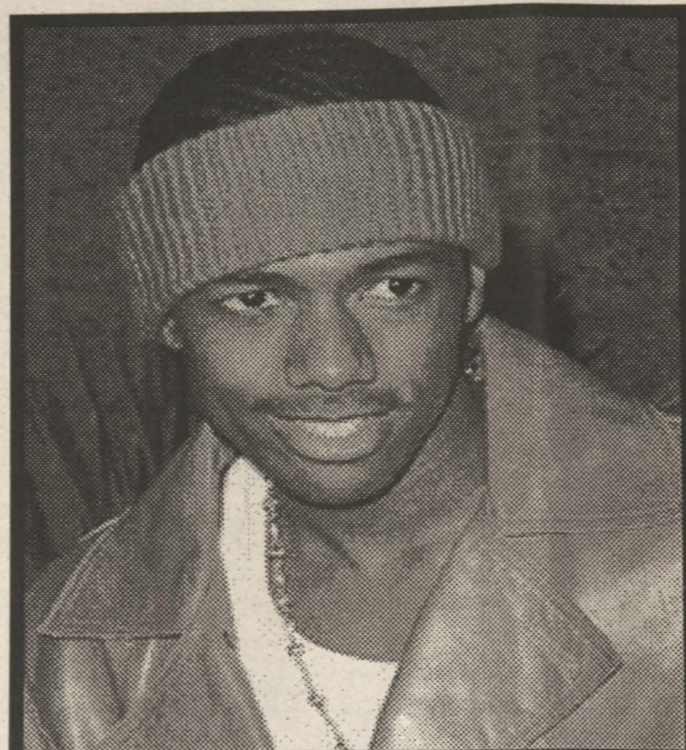


Photo courtesy of google.com

Actor Nick Cannon, star of Nickelodeon's "The Nick Cannon Show," has a debut album coming out soon. Go buy his hit movie, "Drumline," with Orlando Jones, which comes out this week on VHS and DVD.

Australia says its troops in Iraq will be called home soon

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — The Australian government said Tuesday it hopes to bring its 2,000 military personnel home from war in Iraq soon.

"Our principal war fighting components in Iraq ... we hope will be able to return to Australia in the not too distant future," Defense Minister Robert Hill told reporters in Canberra.

"It is our objective to get them home as soon as reasonably possible" after major hostilities cease, he added.

He said the government was working on a timetable to pull out its forces but would not elaborate on exactly when troops would

start returning. Hill also said Australia was preparing to send military air traffic controllers to Iraq to help with reconstruction and humanitarian efforts in the shattered nation.

"The orderly flow of aircraft into the major cities of Iraq is going to be critically important" in efforts to rebuild the country, Hill said. Hill also said a team of 12 Australians will travel to Iraq to help in the search for weapons of mass destruction.

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The Panther

Prairie View A&M University's official student publication

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The Panther office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday -Friday.

Howard U. Boosters Haven't Given Up on Morris Brown

By Kerry-Ann Hamilton  
Black College Wire/ Howard

Morris Brown College has lost its accreditation, but the student who spearheaded a Howard University campaign to save the school maintains that, "Now more than ever, support is needed to lobby for funds. This is not a setback, it is a set up for a comeback."

Olu Burrell, a senior English major at Howard, led a team that set up a "Save Morris Brown" Web site and sent postcards and letters of support in the hundreds to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the accrediting body.

But SACS decided April 7 to maintain its decision of Dec. 9 to rescind Morris Brown's accreditation, citing the college for poor record keeping and mispending federal financial aid, among the institution's violations.

The financial impact will be severe. Morris Brown immediately loses access to

millions of dollars in federal financial assistance, which approximately 90 percent of its students receive.

The loss of accreditation also suspends the school's affiliation with the United Negro College Fund, a major financial source. According to UNCF regulations, a school automatically loses its membership if it is unaccredited.

Enrollment could be affected even more than it has already.

Some 50 percent of Morris Brown's 2,500 students did not return for classes this spring. Many transferred to neighboring schools in the Atlanta University Center.

"Our efforts here at Howard University have not failed," said Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert. "We were and still are committed to preserving the legacy of our sister school Morris Brown. The Howard community came together to help keep the gates of this historic institution open. Un-

fortunately we were unable to do so, but the battle continues."

The 122-year-old institution is not planning on closing its doors. There are plans to resume classes in August. The spring semester was accelerated to accommodate graduating seniors earning a degree from an accredited institution.

Students attended each class for 110 minutes three times a week, Monday through Saturday, in order to fulfill the 2,250 hours of class time required to meet university guidelines.

Morris Brown's president, Charles E. Taylor, said he remains committed to restoring the college's accreditation.

He said in a state-

ment, "This decision will have a tremendous impact on Morris Brown, but the college has weathered very difficult times before.

"With the help of a lot of people, we have made great progress. We will continue to improve, we will continue to raise funds, we will continue to meet the needs of our students and all standards for accreditation as we engage in the process for re-accreditation."

According to the accrediting commission, its policies allow for no further appeal. An institution can reapply for membership at any time, but an application should be submitted only if and when an institution has corrected the deficiencies that caused its loss of accreditation.

CORRECTION

In last week's article by Dustin Daniel headlined, "What do you think when you see a Black Fox?," the names of two Black Foxes were misspelled. Their names are Chelcia Greer and LaPorsche Morrison. Greer was also misquote. What Greer said was: "People consider Black Foxes and cheerleaders to be unintelligent."

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# Question It



Denise Cohen  
Panther Staff

Here at the Panther much of what we print is the truth. We gather our information from reliable sources around campus, check our facts, and make sure what we report is unbiased and fact based. Right? Can you consider The Panther or any of its "big brothers" such as the NY Times or the Houston Chronicle for accurate but unbiased reporting? Do these publications inform you about a story from all angles or just one, the reporter's?

Sit down and honestly take a look at what you read. As far back as the O.J. Simpson trial when Nicole Brown's sister Denise, wept as the verdict was read, we were plagued with what we saw and felt on TV and ran with these emotions. Another example is when former president Clinton lied to the country when he denied having relations with intern Monica Lewinsky. Who did we honestly feel sorry for, our misunderstood President or the chubby intern?

Whatever the "facts" of either story may be it is not the readers' fault if they have obtained what was written or said and applied it to their lives.

Journalists and reporters need to step up to the plate, obtain their facts correctly, and use their written or spoken gifts to inform their audience.

As a reader it is important to learn all aspects of a news story. Everyone's point of view is important. To gain knowledge it is necessary to obtain it. If something that you read is not to your liking SPEAK UP! Make your voice heard. Every media outlet has a way for you to get in touch with them to voice your opinions. Do not let one reporter influence a decision that many have opinions about.

# CEC offers a career alternative

## Program gives students a chance to help exceptional children

By Barbara Ramirez  
Panther Staff

The world through the eyes of a child can be fierce, yet full of exploration. To highlight the good in every child and provide comfort to special education children, the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) has made its home on the campus of Prairie View A&M University and has begun its journey on the road to improvements.

The official website for the council defines the organization and its mission by stating, "CEC, is a non-profit association, accomplishes its mission which is carried out through special education professionals and others working on behalf of individuals with exceptionalities by advocating for appropriate governmental policies by setting professional standards, by providing continuing professional developments, by helping professionals achieve conditions and

resources necessary for effective professional practice."

Senior special education major, Shandra Gibbs is president of the Prairie View A&M University chapter of the council.

"CEC is a national organization that has chapters on various campuses nationwide and this year we decided it's time to get things rolling," Gibbs said.

Gibbs explained that the goal of CEC is to inform students that the organization is open to all majors, not just education majors.

"A lot of other majors tend to start teaching and they don't realize that once they get in the classroom they may have to deal with special education students."

Gibbs also said that a teacher's understanding of "real problems" a child faces can prevent a child from being restricted to special education courses.

"Some teachers don't have good classroom management skills and are

not properly equipped to handle special education students."

Furthermore, Gibbs said that something as simple as behavioral or learning problems tend to give teachers reason to put children in special education courses, when it should not.

"I don't agree with the tactics of just throwing a child in special education courses to get him/her out of the classroom and avoid dealing with the child," said Gibbs.

Gibbs said that mentoring special education children takes time and effort.

To do their part in educational improvement efforts, the CEC offers after school tutorials and big sister/big brother programs to children in the Waller County area.

The CEC is also in the process of conducting seminars that will give a clear understanding of the meaning of "special educa-

tion" and its many effects on school environments.

The vice president of CEC is Claudette Wilson. Other officers include secretary Angela Powell and treasurer Allan Colvin.

The CEC has approximately 12 members and wants to recruit more.

For applications and questions concerning the CEC admissions contact the advisor Dr. Douglas Butler at ext. 3921



# PURPLE & GOLD POLL



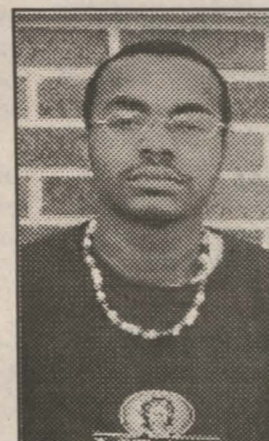
## What Easter traditions do you have?



Ida Cooley

Sophomore/Communications

"My family goes to church and out to dinner."



LeMikkos Starks

Junior/Computer Science

"A new suit, church, and dinner."



Tera Martin

Sophomore/ADSY

"Go to church and then to Grandma's house for the traditional feast and children's Easter egg hunt."



Cicely Williams

Sophomore/Education

"Go to church and spend time with relatives that are from out of town."

Photos by: Denise Cohen

# Two brothers to return from Iraq - one dead one alive

By Geoff Mulvihill  
Associated Press

Eva Hemingway-Shannon has hardly been away from the television since the war began in Iraq nearly a month ago. When she saw a Bradley fighting vehicle blown up on Thursday, she tried to distract herself from thoughts that her son was on it.

The next day, she learned Army Staff Sgt. Terry Hemingway, 39, had been aboard the vehicle when the car next to it exploded. He was killed.

"I'm proud that Terry was my son, and I'm also proud that my son gave his life to a worthy cause," Hemingway-Shannon said, recalling images of Iraqis last week after it seemed that Saddam Hussein's regime had been toppled. "When I saw the people shouting and jumping for joy, it made me feel good."

Hemingway's remains will be flown back to the United States in the next

few days, along with his younger brother. Army Sgt. Gary Hemingway, 35, had been serving in the 4th Infantry Division in Iraq but was reassigned to escorting his brother's body.

He called home Saturday and Sunday. "He was trying to be brave," Hemingway-Shannon said.

Both brothers followed their stepfather, the Rev. Evine Shannon, into the Army. Shannon served for 26 years and was in both Vietnam and the first Gulf War.

"I told them, 'Her and I work every day.' They're not going to sit around the house. I told them, 'Get a job or go into the Army,'" Shannon said. "They went into the Army and made the best of it."

Terry Hemingway joined soon after he graduated from Trenton High School. He did one tour in the service, then took the state police test. But he decided he'd rather be in the military and re-enlisted.

A member of the C Company, First Battalion,

15th Infantry Regiment, based at Fort Benning, Ga., he served in Korea and Panama during his 19 years in the service. He was planning to retire from the service later this year.

His wife, Darlene, was his high school sweetheart. He also is survived by three children, Danisha, 7; Venetia, 9; and Terry Jr., 11. In school photos, the children flash the same life-of-the-party smile as their father.

Sgt. Hemingway's sister, Jackie Hicks, said the family was shocked when the couple announced they were expecting the first time.

"Before they had kids, they were single, living the life," said Hicks, 37. "They'd come home from the service on leave, they'd be hanging out. ... They wouldn't change a baby or pick one up."

But the man who was known for having a joke for every occasion became a devoted father, his family said.

He also had had a lot of luck, his stepfather said.

It was a night of hard partying that kept him from being aboard Pan Am Flight 103 when it exploded over Scotland in 1988. The next year, he drove over the Bay Bridge connecting San Francisco and Oakland about 15 minutes before an earthquake caused part of it to collapse.

His good fortune was not with him Thursday. On Sunday, the flag in front of his mother and stepfather's rancher was at half-mast.

Hemingway-Shannon held a one-page letter from her son as she sat in the breakfast nook of her home, which had become a depot for friends and family with food and condolences, and reporters with questions.

Many lines in the Feb. 26 letter were pure Terry to her.

As she read them, she sometimes held off the tears and sometimes let them out.

"Hey Mommy. How are you and Dad? He always started off with, 'Mommy.' He always called me 'Mommy' unless he was mad at me," Hemingway-Shannon said.

His thanks for a package demonstrated the gratefulness she said her son always showed.

He bragged about his role as commander of two Bradleys.

He asked for information on how to reach his brother and for his sister to send him a CD he could play in one of the Bradleys.

The family is planning a funeral for Saturday. They asked Gov. James E. McGreevey to attend when he called Sunday to offer his condolences.

"The knowledge of service and sacrifice on behalf of our nation will hopefully provide comfort to the family during this difficult time," McGreevey said.

About 14 miles down Route 130, another New Jersey family was dealing with war news of a different sort. Their son, Army Sgt. James Riley, was among seven soldiers found alive after being taken prisoner by Iraqi troops in the first few days of the invasion.

Thinking about Hemingway kept Riley's father, Athol Riley, from being more excited.

"It's got to be tinged also with a certain amount of regret for the others who have not come home in one piece," Riley said. "They gave everything."

Hemingway was the second soldier from New Jersey to be killed in Iraq. Cpl. Michael E. Curtin, 23, of Howell, a member of the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division, killed by a suicide bomber on March 29.

## The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Miss Prairie View A&M University Scholarship Pageant

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- \*Thanks for a safe Spring Fest PV!
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- \*Have a safe Easter.

## Forgotten sport?



By Leona Aaron  
Panther Staff

The most popular sports today are football, basketball, and baseball. We don't mind flipping channels of past sports to get to these series of sports. Only problem is we forget about other sporting events that art they just as compelling as these.

We are too busy being one-dimensional, thinking that the only sports that are exciting are football, basketball, and baseball. For example, when Charlton Doucette was athlete of the week two weeks ago, several people came up to me and asked what sport does he play.

Since it is always a hint of what type of sport they play in the claim to fame, it was puzzling to know that some still don't get it. The sport was tennis and when this was mentioned they through it off like "oh, whatever." This was very appalling to me because tennis is a great sport.

Althea Gibson was the first African-American female in tennis and also considered the first black in tennis. Arthur Ashe was the first African-American male in tennis.

Althea was the first black to win Wimbledon and the French Open while Arthur was keeping everyone on their toes by winning the Wimbledon and World Championship Tennis titles. Althea and Arthur had great adversity set towards them because of the color of their skin.

Despite all the odds stacked against them they achieved the highest honors. Don't just think Venus and Serena also give thanks for Althea and Arthur because they paved the way.

## Purple & Gold Scrimmage uplifts spectators' hopes for next year

By Steven Kennedy  
Panther Staff

Remember all the talk about Prairie View's football team having consecutive losing seasons, and every other school in the SWAC putting them down because they were always at the bottom of the pile. Well, expect a lot of changes this year, because there is definitely a different football team on the hill.

In the last two seasons the Panthers have compiled a 4-17 record. That's what lack of scholarships can do to a football program.

But all of that losing nonsense is over. Prairie View A&M held its annual Purple & Gold scrimmage Saturday, at Blackshear Stadium. The team marched onto the

field at 9 a.m., but the scrimmage didn't start until 10:30 a.m.

From 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. the team went through their usual pre-game warm-ups, with the quarterbacks throwing to the receivers, and the running backs taking hand offs.

On the other side of the field the defensive backs were doing their own set of drills, along with the linebackers and the linemen.

Coach C. L. Whittington provided the audience with additional commentary on what the players were doing on the field at each position.

The team was very confident on the field, as if they knew that the 2003 football season was going to be a different story than the past.

Everything was

on point whether it was the receivers catching passes or the quarterbacks completing the passes, everything looked in top fashion.

The offense wore the all white uniforms, while the defense displayed the purple and white. Starting the scrimmage at the skill positions on offense were WR Robert Douglas (5-7, 165), WR Charles Washington (5-10, 193), TE Jason Ford (6-4, 205), RB Darrell Walker (5-11, 170), and at QB newcomer, Steve McGrill (6-2, 180).

On the defensive side, starters at the skill positions were SS Carlan White (6-3, 220), CB Jason Austin (5-11, 180), SS Sidney Taylor (5-10, 187), LB Chris Mercer (6-1, 224).

Returning lettermen on offense from last season at receiver are WR Bertrum Jackson (23

catches 416 yards 18.1 avg. 1 TD), WR Robert Douglas (25 catches 303 yards 12.1 avg.), WR Charles Washington (24 catches 267 yards 11.1 avg. 1 TD), and TE Jason Ford.

At the end of the scrimmage the team introduced themselves to the fans. Coach C. L. Whittington told the fans that there were bigger and better things to come from the football team.

This year Prairie View A&M was awarded 63 athletic football scholarships, and that will make a big difference in the 2003 football season.

Look out SWAC, Prairie A&M will be a football team to be reckoned with in 2003, and the journey starts in the fall when they face Texas Southern in Reliant Stadium in Houston.

## Cochran brings new atmosphere, motivation to campus tennis team

By Kory Briggs  
Panther Staff

Work ethic, determination and teamwork is something Head Coach John Cochran molds into his tennis team.

In only his second year he has motivated the seven players on the men's team and five players on the women's team to outstanding showings.

Cochran hails from Chicago, Illinois, and is also a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. Cochran stated that, "It was hard for the players to get accustomed to the college life, but they are improving and learning the meaning of teamwork".

PVAMU tennis is often overlooked among the other more widely talked about sports. However, there is much illustri-

ous history. The PVAMU tennis team was SWAC tennis champs eight years in the 60s, which has never been repeated.

Such popular names as Gustavo Batista, Ben Wright, Cliff Johnson, and Thomas Jefferson have been part of the great PVAMU tennis teams.

Johnson and Wright are the only two All Americans noted. Tennis often fights the battle of publicity.

This year's tennis teams have been vastly improving. Cochran says, "The women were like warriors this year, battling to the end."

At about 5:30 p.m., these young men and women can be found running on the loop, on the court doing practice matches and motivating one another.

Men's team captain J.R. Garcia says, "We have a

ways to go but next year we plan to have much improvement." So what does this work ethic and determination mean to Cochran and his players?

Cochran instills values and makes it evident that PVAMU tennis can be winners.

"It is definitely hard when most of the players are transfers and freshmen", stated Cochran.

Cochran definitely has a strong background of motivating young people.

He stays quite busy around the campus. He serves as a speaker for many functions about improving PVAMU life and helping freshman students.

He also serves as an advisor to peers and a very influential mentor. Now residing in Houston,

Texas, he plans to be around the campus for a while and continue improving PVAMU tennis.

With one match left on the schedule, the season is at an end and plans for next year are already being made.

The ultimate goal is blowing past the sensational record of the 1957-59 team with their most consecutive wins of 36 matches dual/tour and their impressive 18-0 win-loss record.

With an inspiring coach and a young team that is becoming experienced, great things are surely in the plans for PVAMU tennis.

# Athletes of the week



Name: Faye Moore

Classification: Senior

Hometown: Goliad, TX

Sport: Tennis

Claim to Fame: Constantly serving aces.

Name: Alicia Jennings

Classification: Sophomore

Hometown: Houston, TX

Sport: Tennis

Claim to Fame: They get no love on the court.



# Career fair attendees gain opportunities

By Nikki Easter  
Panther Staff

The College of Education hosted its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual career fair last week. Students of all majors got an opportunity to interview with recruiting school districts.

The districts in attendance included Northeast ISD, Dallas ISD, Sulphur Springs ISD, and Terrell ISD.

Professor Martha Bailey said she gets a lot of enjoyment out of the job fair from seeing former students return to Prairie View to recruit current students.

"It shows that Prairie View graduates are making something of themselves," said Bailey as she greeted Monet Reed, a former student. Reed, the assistant principal of Desoto ISD, graduated from Prairie View with a bachelor's degree in education in 1986 and acquired her master's in

1991.

Bailey has been coordinating the job fair for sixteen years. She said it serves as a motivator for students who are unsure of a major to pursue education, and also as a venue for education majors to network with school districts.

Although the job fair is open to all students, some recruiters were looking for certified teachers ready to go into the classroom. Sharon Fuery of Northside ISD in San Antonio, Texas commended the caliber of PVAMU students by saying she attended to hire certified teachers.

"The students here are really sharp but most are not in the education program. PVAMU has a really strong education depart. I would suggest more join the department of education because there is always a need

for teachers," said Fuery.

Out of the sixteen applicants Fuery interviewed, only three were education majors.

Junior biology major Michelle Johnson said she attended the job fair because she plans to teach to pay her way through medical school.

The Region IV education service center is holding another job fair on Monday, June 2 and Tuesday, June 3 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the M.O. Campbell Education Center in Houston.

The alternative certification program is designed for students who are not part of the "traditional university program."

Bailey said she aims to provide a hospitable environment for recruiters. Before the job fair the faculty of the college of education has lunch with the recruiters to welcome them to Prairie View.

# health hints

## S.A.R.S.

### Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

S.A.R.S is contagious by close contact. The length of time between exposure and symptoms is estimated to range from two to seven days. So far more than 2,500 cases of S.A.R.S. have been reported.

#### Symptoms:

- \*High fever
- \*Dry cough
- \*Shortness of breath
- \*Headache
- \*Muscular stiffness
- \*Loss of Appetite
- \*Malaise
- \*Confusion
- \*Rash
- \*Diarrhea

#### Prevention:

Health experts say it is important to maintain good personal hygiene and good ventilation in home and work environments.

#### Is it safe to travel?

U.S. and Canadian health officials also say travelers should consider postponing non-essential trips to areas at risk such as Hanoi, Vietnam, Hong Kong, or Guangdong province in southern China, and Singapore.

Courtesy of: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# Families gear up for return of POWs

## Missing 7 found alive and safe in Iraq

By Leslie Hoffman  
Associated Press Writer

The daily vigil in front of the TV set has ended happily for the former POWs' families and friends. Now, the talk is of the joyous reunions to come and the celebrations to plan.

Like hometowns for the six other former POWs picked up Sunday by U.S. forces, Alamogordo plans a parade, cheers and hero's welcomes for Army Spc. Joseph Hudson.



U.S. Lance Cpl. Curney Russell, left, escorts former POW Army Spc. Shoshana Johnson, from El Paso, Tx, to an awaiting ambulance after landing in Kuwait City, Sunday, April 13, 2003.

think a parade would be great idea," Mayor Don Carroll said.

"People are already talking about it. It's just a matter of figuring out when they're coming home."

The seven former prisoners were rescued Sunday by U.S. forces on the road to Tikrit, Iraq, and are now in Kuwait.

The military has not said when they will be flying home.

Light poles along the main street of Hudson's hometown are adorned by yellow ribbons, and many business marquees carry messages of thanks and encouragement for American troops.

"It's huge," said Peter Schmidt, a Dairy Queen owner who wants to help pitch in for a celebration.

"For him to have gone through what he did and serve our country the

way he did we want to honor him."

At the Alamogordo Wal-Mart, there's been a rush on American flag pins and yellow ribbons.

"I've seen everybody

like it when his mother snaps a photograph of him, let alone the news photographers and videographers he'll undoubtedly face when he comes home.

Maj. Nathan Banks,

Relatives can't wait for the soldiers to come home. Hudson's wife, Natalie, and his 19-year-old brother, Anthony, were briefed by military officials at Fort Bliss, Texas, and the two plan to

a military debriefing and the mental and emotional process of reintegration after the trauma of being held prisoner, she said.

When Chief Warrant Officer David Williams gets home, his wife will be waiting to listen.

Michelle Williams finally heard her husband's voice Sunday over the phone at her home in Killeen, Texas.

"I was so teary, he probably didn't understand anything I said," she said. After a few minutes, their voices calmed one another and her husband began to tell of his ordeal.

"And I said, 'Sweetie, you don't have to tell me anything,'" she said. "When you're really ready to talk, when we can be together, you can talk. I'm hear to listen."

Meanwhile, Army Pfc. Patrick Miller's sister removed a sign Monday from the front of her Wichita, Kan., house requesting prayers for the POWs, but said she would leave the yellow ribbon tied around a tree.

"We're so happy we'll get him back," she said. "But we're going to leave it

travel to meet the former POW before he returns to New Mexico. Packed among her things for the reunion, Natalie said, is a blue teddy bear that she bought after their 5-year-old daughter, Cameron, suggested it. Blue is Joseph's favorite color. She said officials gave them information about what Hudson will undergo as a returning prisoner of war. That includes

Photo by: Yahoo Images

the military's liaison to Riley's family, said Riley and the other POWs will be taken to Washington's Walter Reed Medical Center, and will be released according to their health conditions.

The joy for U.S. Army Spc. Shoshana Johnson, 30, spread as far as Panama.

Although she has never returned to the country since emigrating to the United States with her family at age 6, excitement at the rescue was infectious.

"Miracle!" read one headline; "Shoshana Lives!" read another.

When 19-year-old Pfc. Jessica Lynch returns to Palestine, W.Va., she'll get more than just a party.

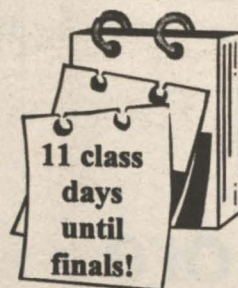
College scholarships, a trip to Hawaii, new cars and cash are just some of the gifts waiting for the former POW rescued April 1.



## The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR ACADEMICS!!



- o You must take the TASP at least once every academic year.
- o Note: Sophomores, juniors and seniors must provide TASP scores for the year 2002 to be able to pre-register for spring 2003. Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick TASP testing schedule or call 936/857-2747.

THANK YOU UC STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE TAKS STUDY.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2003  
NOON - 4:00 PM  
STUDENT PARK

Prairie View A&M University  
Department of Health and Human Performance  
Presents:  
**"Reminiscing"**  
featuring  
Classic Dance Ensemble  
&  
Intermediate Dance Classes

April 22, 2003  
7:30 P.M.  
Hobart Taylor Auditorium  
\$3.00 Pre-Sale, \$5.00 At the door  
For special assistance call x2610

## Suge at fault?



By NiRoshia Smith  
Panther Staff

Wherever there's violence, there's usually a hip-hop artist somewhere being blamed. Oddly that wasn't the situation in a recent lawsuit against Antron "Big Lurch" Singleton, who was arrested last year for murder and cannibalism.

Recently, the victim's mother, Carolyn Stinson, filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Death Row Records. The lawsuit states that Singleton's record label provided drugs "to encourage [him] to act out in an extreme violent manner so as to make him more marketable as a 'gangsta rap' artist. Strangely enough, the victim's boyfriend admitted that he and Singleton were smoking PCP the night before the murder.

I'm a firm believer that if you truly live the life that you rap about then you are more marketable. Take 50 cent's recent success for an example. But is it worth it to reinvent yourself to sell a few albums? Has Death Row become so desperate that they're willing to pressure someone to take drugs? All the platinum plaques in the world aren't worth taking someone's life. Neither is the risk of taking an illegal substance and having to pay the price for something you may not remember doing.

It's too extreme to say that hip-hop is getting out of hand. I will say that in life we all have choices. Many decisions that we make we can't take back. I doubt that Singleton ever thought that he would have ended up in this situation. Let that be a lesson to all of us. Create your own destiny. Don't be so easily influenced by hip-hop or peer pressure.

## Trina, Ying Yang Twinz "set Spring Fest out" at concert and glow zone party

By Candace Simpson  
Panther Staff

Trina and Ying Yang kicked back and got personal in one on one interviews Friday night after the concert.

After the Ying Yang Twins invited what seemed like half of the audience on stage with them during their performance, they took time out to answer a few questions and set the record straight.

Kaine, also known as Yang, explained why they call themselves the Ying Yang Twins. "The original sign expresses that one half of the circle is about peace and one is about war." He then went into further detail stating, "It explains the differences between the way we deliver each song that we put together. We are nothing alike. He is like day and I'm like night. When Ying happy Yang aint happy, and when Yang aint happy Ying happy."

on BET.com refers to the Twins as one hit wonders, saying they only have about one song on their albums that is worth listening to. "Our record is self explanatory," said Kaine. Without dropping any names he continued, "They say that because other rappers have flooded the market with 6 or 7 albums in three months." He then went on to explain the way it's supposed to be in the business: "The original way an album was bought was you buy an album and ride it for a year because you gotta let a person get to know every aspect about you. They believe that the fan base is the reason why they are so large. It's a gimmick to what me and my brother do," said Kaine.

Another factor they attribute to their success is their gift of gab. "We still out here rocking. People still wanna hear Twirk," Kaine

change the way the city is since Atlanta is the Black Mecca; Ice Cube said he aint never seen a strip club like

they're not out yet," stated Trina. There is also a new movie, titled "A Miami Tale," said to hit theaters some-



The energetic duo, The Ying Yang Twins, got the crowd "crunk" during the concert Friday night.

Photo by Ken Gonzales

the strip clubs in Atlanta, so why we can't put it on the map?"

In a later interview with Trina she told how she has always been a big fan of hip-hop and when she finally got the chance to come out she took the opportunity and ran with it.

Trina stated, "Before I even got started I used to do it for a minute before I came out." She said Trick Daddy discovered her. "I got on his album and I then got on my own album, she said." She did her first song with Trick. She also added that they have continued to work together, and she is working on her third album.

Trina has a clothing line D P Wear (Diamond Princess) that's in preparation for release. "There are a lot of things that I have to do with the clothes, but no



Rapper Trina sat down to give Candace Simpson the scoop on the biz.

Photo by Ken Gonzales

The word *Twins* on the end of their name is just figuratively used. The two of them are not really related. Yang responded to the question of their relation stating, "That's my brother from my other mother." He jokingly added, "My momma could whoop him and his momma could whoop me."

An article published

## New Michael Jackson video promises footage revealing his real life

### Associated Press

The Michael Jackson television frenzy isn't over. Jackson will be the subject of a two-hour special on Fox TV that promises to offer a peek into the pop star's private home movie collection, the network said. The April 24 program, with the working title "Michael Jackson's Private Home Movies," will provide "unprecedented access to thousands of hours of never-before-seen footage revealing his real life, family and friends," the network said. A wave of Jackson programming hit U.S. networks in February, drawing millions of viewers. Jackson, displeased with an interview by British journalist Martin Bashir that drew 27 million viewers to ABC television, gave his side of the story on a Fox special that attracted 14 million viewers. Brad Lachman, who produced the Fox special, also is producing the home movies show.

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U.S. AIR FORCE  
CROSS INTO THE BLUE

## Panther Poetry Lounge

Life  
By: Curtis Eli

Life can be so bitter but yet so sweet. Thoughts boggling in your mind can be so narrow yet so deep. Sitting back waiting for a better day, not knowing that I was just a prayer away. Mindful of thoughts of uncertainty and confusion. You never know when it could be a family member or friend you could be losing. My life has been hard but yet fair. The ones who support us are the ones who really care. I ask myself, is there a light shining down on me? I already know He has opened the door to let me see. Emotions can be tough with pain and sorrow. The next person who picks up a weapon needs to ask himself if he will see tomorrow. When you arise in the morning does your heart race with fear? Just know that it's OK to shed a tear. Just remember when you feel yourself getting down and out don't worry, the Lord is with you without a doubt. Do you really have friends or foes? The one who has risen truly knows. The ones who you think are your friends or backstabbers. It's cool when they're in your face, but behind your back it's all laughter. Everybody may go through stress and depression, but just know that it's just a lesson followed by a blessing. Ask yourself, are you ready to lie down? For some people it's too late because they are already in the ground. I used to think that a man never cries, until you see that significant person in your life lying in a casket before your eyes. Never turn to the Lord asking why? That is just His will: some people live, some people die. Is it He who is talking to me at night? I was always taught to never give up without a fight. Negativity can be the downfall to someone's future and career. When you have a positive mindset that's when you know He's near. As the days progress I see myself getting stronger and stronger. It is He from above that said you don't have to worry any longer.

### Top 10 movies this week

1. Anger Management
2. Phone Booth
3. What a Girl Wants
4. Bringing Down the House
5. A Man Apart
6. Head of State
7. House of 1000 Corpses
8. The Core
9. Chicago
10. Basic

Courtesy of [themovietimes.com](http://themovietimes.com)

1. Who knew the Kappas could really step?
2. Wasn't the skit about the license plates funny?
3. Who was controlling the lights at the step show?
4. Isn't it funny how the Zetas stomped the Deltas at the stepshow?
5. Did the guy that got on stage with Trina know he was talked about backstage?
6. Did the KKIs think it was the dorm step-off?
7. Who didn't go to the bathroom when the KKIs stepped?
8. It's spring, why are people still wearing boots?
9. Can someone from Alumni tell us when the ice cream shipment comes in?
10. Weren't the Alpha Angels deep?
11. Who went to the talent-less show?
12. Why did Denny's have its grand-opening at 10 p.m.?
13. Who still has points?
14. Did the PV Wreckers really wreck?
15. Who only goes to church on Easter?
16. Who's depending on summer school grades to boost up their GPA?
17. Why does the gate in the Village automatically open now?
18. Aren't you glad the violence stopped for one weekend?
19. Isn't it funny how the police disappear after big events?
20. What do you think?

This is for entertainment only. The questions submitted are not the views of The Panther. Want to tell us what you think? Please bring your comments and questions to Rm. 109 Delco or e-mail [panther@pvamu.edu](mailto:panther@pvamu.edu). Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther

**Flag from page 1**

View, but didn't get any help."

Roberts noted that the owners said it was not a conscious effort on their part to slight the university.

SIFE President Jeffrey Patterson said he spoke with Chief of Police R.V.

Stephens about the licensing process and the procedures needed to get the flag.

"I directed Jeffery [Patterson] to the director of student center operations, Silas Collins, who could better assist him with licensing," said Stephens. "Anyone who

wants to display a PVAMU logo for commercial purposes must go through him."

The Shell owners said they intended to fly the PVAMU flag but could not because the university has a contract with another vendor.

Baqui and

Chowdhury said they did not purposely want to offend anyone by not displaying the flag sooner, but they just encountered difficulties in the process.

"The people who provided us with the other two flags did not want to produce a PVAMU flag because they didn't want to get into a lawsuit," said Baqui. "That was the main problem because we didn't know where to go."

The SIFE president found out the name of the university's vendor, which is Capital Flag, and the flag was ordered.

The owners said they were aware students and people in the community were upset about the flags.

"People didn't know the whole story because they weren't informed and we didn't feel good about it," said Baqui. "My brother is a PVAMU graduate and Ahad's [Chowdhury] wife currently attends the university."

According to Baqui, it was not until Patterson showed up that they were able to order the flag.

"The flag we ordered was specially made and cost double what the UT flag cost," said Chowdhury. The owners say they paid approximately \$2,000 for the flag and plan to display the Hempstead Bobcat flag too.

"Some of our peers were going up there with a negative attitude, not even giving the men the benefit of a doubt," said Patterson. "I approached the owners in a professional manner and found out the facts first."

Patterson said that he

hopes the university and community will see the effort that was done.

Roberts said, "The step Jeffrey [Patterson] took is indicative of what the goals of the SIFE organization are - the freedom to educate people on how you go about benefiting from the free enterprise system. He added, "We are grateful for it and the initiative on the students' part, and the willingness on the businessmen's part to want to include the university."

**Step Show from page 1**

the results were close, but there could only be one first place winner in each category. CSO winners of the step show were Rho Chi Psi in third place, Tau Beta Sigma in second place, and KKKPsi to steal the show for the non-Greeks with first place. Greek sorority winners were the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta with second place and Zeta Phi Beta came in first place. The fraternity winners of the night included Kappa Alpha Psi with second place and the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha in first place.

Following the presentation of awards, the floor was cleared, and the after party began. DJ Larose, one of Houston's hottest disc jockeys, provided the music for the party, playing a variety of songs from new school hip-hop and R&B to reggae and old school. Using his normal style of musical selections, he gave the crowd a "Friday night at T Town" feel although it was Saturday at P.V.

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 - James Hill, BET.com

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Winners will also receive \$2,000 to spend at www.hpshopping.com plus Gift Certificates to the HP Company Store at www.hpstore.com