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Panther- April 2003 - Vol. LXXX, NO.23

Prairie View A&M University

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Prairie View A&M University. (2003). Panther- April 2003 - Vol. LXXX, NO.23., *Vol. LXXX, NO.23* Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/pv-panther-newspapers/705>

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Inside
this week:



Do movies such as "Bringing Down The House" and "Barbershop" offend African Americans?

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The track teams take their talents to the Texas Relays this weekend.

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Def Jam and EA Sports take hip-hop to another level.

Page 10

Who is the 'weakest link'?

Voters await results of SGA elections



Hendrik Maison



Marcus Joubert



Stacy Lloyd

These were the three candidates for SGA President. Joubert and Lloyd challenged Maison, the incumbent. Election officials say the results will be released today.

Photos by Leona Aaron and Christina Johnson

By Barbara Ramirez
Panther Staff

Student government elections were held in the west wing of Alumni Hall from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. yesterday. The election results had not been released by press time last night.

Students who voted had the opportunity to use a computer system, which allowed voting to be quicker and easier. The computer system approach was made possible by the Information Technology Department.

Explaining the voting process, director of student activities and leadership Brian Dickens said voters had to sign in for verification of

their bona fide status as students, and then proceed to the terminal to cast their votes with their usernames and birth dates.

Dickens said about 75 to 100 votes out of 600 had to be done by scantron due to small technical difficulties. He said the computer system has "taken us a long way" despite small flaws such as issues with IDs that were not completely working.

He added there will be a review meeting today to discuss the flaws with the computer system.

Dickens said in

See Elections page 5

Trina, Ying Yang Twinz to perform at Spring Fest

By Candace Simpson
Panther Staff

Regardless of what you've seen or heard in the past, this year's Spring Fest events are a bit different, but still promise to bring rave reviews.

Something's finally free at P.V. In the past, students have complained that the university is always "trying to get money." Well, the silent prayers of the students have been answered. The week-long events for

Spring Fest 2003 (Monday-Thursday) are absolutely free.

Family Feud on the Hill will take place Monday, April 7, from 7-10 p.m. in the West Wing of Alumni Hall. This game, which is a spin-off from the TV game show *Family Feud*, will feature teams of five-member "families" to compete against each other to find the best answers to surveyed questions. Questions and answers will be familiar to the students and come from a survey done by students of

Prairie View A & M. A total of 12 games will be played. If you haven't already signed up don't worry, you will be able to form a team on-site.

The spring sorority and fraternity lines will get a chance to showcase themselves and let the campus know who they are at the *Probate Show* Tuesday, April 8, from 6-7 p.m.

Poetry, both reading and writing, is definitely starting to spread around the campus. Also on Tuesday, a number of pre-selected

students will have an opportunity to share their poetry with the world, or at least the campus, at *The Java House Poetry Jam* in the West Wing of Alumni Hall from 7-10 p.m. This is your chance to enjoy poetry reading in a coffee house atmosphere. The aroma and rich taste of free cappuccino and other coffee products may dazzle your taste buds as the spoken words romance your ears. Sorry, no open mic.

A *Talent Show* will be held Wednesday, April 9, at

the Billy J. Nicks Baby Dome from 7-10 p.m. to spotlight some of Prairie View's own talent who will compete against one another for a spot as an opening act for the concert. Trophies will also be given to the winners.

Come out and enjoy games while moving to your favorite music provided by Justin throughout the night on Thursday, April 10. An *Inflatable Carnival* will be

See Carnival page 5

•State•

PV's Seven Day Forecast

•National•

Governor encourages schools to embrace federal law

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) _ Despite concerns over the new No Child Left Behind law, the concept behind the legislation is sound and South Dakota schools should embrace it, Gov. Mike Rounds said.

Educators and administrators need to remember that the law is designed to help students in the long term, Rounds said. "I really do want to see No Child Left Behind work."

While small districts will need to find different ways to educate children, that can be accomplished through technology, such as the Dakota Digital Network.

Small districts shouldn't fear that he wants to close or consolidate schools, the governor said. But they will be challenged to operate efficiently, he said.

Former state schools superintendent runs for school board

MARSHALL, Wis. (AP) _ He's worked as the state's schools superintendent, a district administrator, a school principal and a teacher. Now add school board member.

John Benson ran unopposed Tuesday for a three-year term on the Marshall School Board in Dane County. He has filled a board vacancy since December.

Benson, 65, served two four-year terms as the state's elected schools superintendent before he retired in 2001. In the past two years, Benson has spent time with his grandchildren and raised steers on his farm near Marshall.

•World•

School explosion in eastern China injures 12 students

BEIJING (AP) _ An explosion in a school in eastern China injured 12 students, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Monday.

The blast occurred at the Daxuelu Primary School in Hangzhou city when a student threw the detonating fuse of an old cannonball against the ceiling while playing with it, Xinhua said.

A crowd had gathered to watch the boy, identified only as a 13-year-old with the family name Feng, play with the fuse on the fourth floor of one of the buildings, the agency said.

All 12 of the injured students were immediately hospitalized.

The primary school is in the eastern province of Zhejiang.

Mystery illness kills fourth person in Singapore

SINGAPORE (AP) _ A mystery flu-like illness has killed a fourth person in Singapore.

Singapore has reported 92 cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS. The latest victim, a woman, visited a patient at the hospital who did not have SARS in early March. She contracted the disease from another patient in the ward.

The disease has so far infected more than 1,600 people in 15 countries worldwide, and has killed 62. China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Vietnam are among the hardest hit countries.

Are You Serious?!

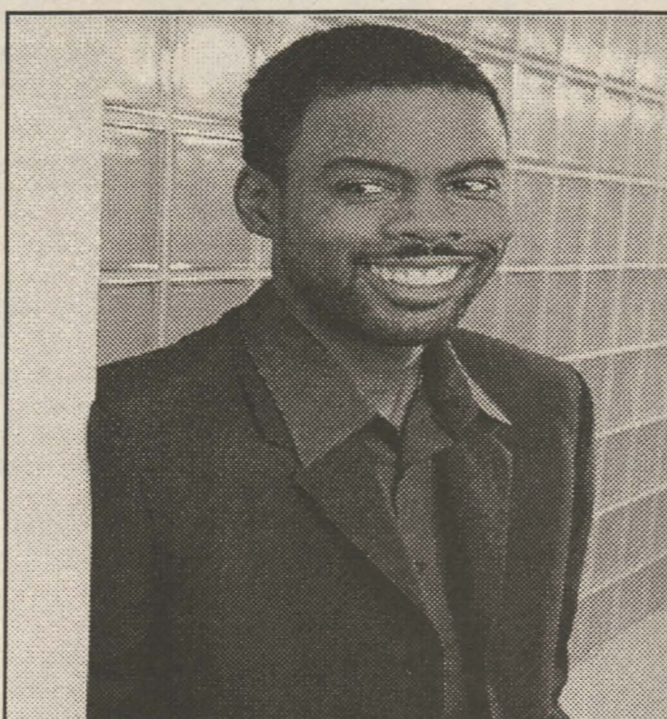


Photo courtesy of AP World Photos

Comedian, talk show host, and actor Chris Rock makes his directorial debut and stars in his new movie, *Head of State*, which was released in movie theaters March 28. The movie comes out at the same time that two African-Americans, Al Sharpton and Carol Moseley Braun, are running for the Democratic Party's nomination for President.

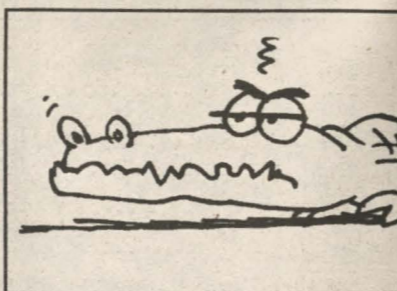
Red Cross worker's body repatriated from Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) _ In a wooden casket covered with flowers, the body of a Red Cross worker slain by gunmen in volatile southern Afghanistan was flown out of the capital Monday for repatriation to El Salvador.

Ricardo Munguia, a 39-year-old water engineer with the International Committee of the Red Cross, was ambushed and shot dead on a remote road by unidentified gunmen in Kandahar's Shah Wali Kot district on Thursday.

A memorial ceremony was to be held in Geneva today and the body would be returned to Munguia's family in El Salvador afterward. Munguia was a citizen of both Switzerland and El Salvador.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has suspended all staff movements outside the capital, but its offices across the country are still operating.



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The Panther

Prairie View A&M University's official student publication

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Submission Policy for Letters to the Editor

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

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

TIPHC will host first official exhibit Friday
Famed African-American artist's work will be displayed

School of Architecture Special to the Panther

The institute for the Preservation of History and Culture (TIPHC) at Prairie View A&M University will be celebrating the opening of its first official exhibit.

The Isaac Scott Hathaway: *Dean of Black Ceramists, 1874-1967: A Tribute to W.R. Banks* exhibit is coming to Prairie View and will be on display at the John B. Coleman Library, Friday, April 4, 3-5 p.m.

Born in Lexington, Kentucky, April 4, 1874, Hathaway developed the desire to memorialize, by sculpturing prominent African Americans. Such figures as Frederick Douglas, Booker T. Washington, and W.E.B. DuBois were just a few of the pioneers to whom he elected to pay tribute.

In 1945, Hathaway was commissioned by the "U" Club of Prairie View Normal and Industrial College to create a sculpture of the University's seventh principal, W.R. Banks.

Hathaway, known as the "Dean of Black Ceramists," gained national acclaim in 1946 when he became the first African-American to design a U.S. mint coin, a half dollar piece depicting Booker T. Washington.

From his accomplishments, Isaac Scott Hathaway was among the first to introduce the art of ceramic into the college curricula at dozens of universities throughout the United States, including Prairie View A&M University.

The primary mission of the TIPHC is to collect, preserve, study, and make available for research information, records, documents, artifacts, and other items

relating to Texas history and culture and to the history and culture of the United States and the Americas as that history and culture relate to Texas.

The Institute shall give special emphasis to collecting, preserving, and studying information and items relating to the role and contributions of African Americans to Texas history and culture, including: settlement, development, and culture of Texas, government, agriculture, science and industry, military, labor and demography, business, nursing and medicine, public health, architecture and engineering, sports, and the arts.

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Alvin I. Thomas Building

in honor of Dr. Alvin I. Thomas Third President of the University

at 11:00 o'clock in the morning Thursday, April 17, 2003

Prairie View A&M University Prairie View, Texas

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PV Pride



By Denise Cohen
Panther Staff

English, communications honor societies induct new members

By Nikki Easter
Panther Staff

Collegiate studying can be a tedious task consisting of long hours of homework and significant amounts of sacrifice. However, seven motivated students in the department of languages and communications have worked so hard that they have earned recognition for their initiative and perseverance.

Sigma Tau Delta English honor society and Lambda Pi Eta, communications honor society held an induction ceremony on Monday, March 25, in Hilliard Hall.

The ceremony opened with English professor Robert Kirschen reading the history of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English Honor society, and English professor Antonio Jocson reading an original poem.

Ayasha Johnson, president of the Upsilon Lambda chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, welcomed five new members into the International English Honor Society.

Crystal Chatman, Dena Judge, Kristopher Viosine, Roshanda Jones, and Ieana Simien took an oath to "confer distinction upon students of the English language and literature in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies," and "promote literacy in sincerity, truth and design."

Communications professor Molly Swiger swore two students into the Omicron, Omicron Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta which represents "Logo (logic), Pathos (emotion), and Ethos (ethics)."

Swiger said this is the first semester for an active chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, and it was Lorie Freeman and Jade Johnson who encouraged the

department to establish the organization here.

"I feel that communications students work hard and we should be acknowledged for our work, because acknowledgement makes you want to work harder. So I presented the idea to Dr. Swiger to start the organization on campus," said junior communications student Lorie Freeman.

English professor William Chapman spoke on behalf of Dr. Dejun Lui, head of the languages and communications department, congratulating the honorees on the "special milestone of an honor student's education."

Theater students Arthur Thomas, Karina Balderas and Roshunda Jones (also an inductee) presented a dramatic interpretation of the history of Sigma Tau Delta.

To be considered for membership in Lambda Pi Eta, a student must have

completed 60 credit hours (including 30 hours in communications) with a cumulative 3.0 GPA and a 3.25 GPA within the major, and display an interest in and dedication to the study of languages and communications.

Students interested in Sigma Tau Delta must be currently enrolled as a graduate or undergraduate majoring or minoring in English with a 3.0 GPA.

The induction ceremony was planned and coordinated by English professor Diljit Chatha, the faculty advisor of Sigma Tau Delta.

Chatha commended the inductees for their hardwork and resourcefulness and expressed the hope that other qualified English and communications majors would join the honor societies.

Carnival from page 1

featuring an inflatable laser tag unit, human bowling, a rock wall, an obstacle course, inflatable twister and much more.

On your way to dance to the music and enjoy the carnival you can stop by Hobart Taylor for the *Symphonic Band's Spring Concert* that lasts from 7-9 p.m.

Friday, April 11, promises to be enjoyable. A concert and "glow zone" after-party will take place in the Billy J. Nicks Baby Dome 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Trina "The Baddest Chick" will be in concert along with the Ying Yang Twinz. Don't leave when the concert is over because you'll miss the glow zone party that will last until 1 a.m. Come get painted, necklaces, tattoos, and much more to aid you in glowing against the black lighting. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Although the fun and excitement from the concert may make you tired, be sure to wake up for the *Purple and Gold Scrimmage* at Blackshear Stadium at 10 a.m., Saturday morning. Later on Saturday night, the

PV *Stomp Down* and after-party will be held in the Billy Nicks Baby Dome from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Enjoy a step show of sororities and fraternities of both Greek and non-Greek organizations. Monetary prizes will be awarded in the following categories: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place for Greek sororities and fraternities. The same will be done for the non-Greeks. The fun doesn't stop there. You can dance into the night at the official after-party, also in the dome.

The costs for the concert and step show are still being decided, but will be available prior to the events. All in all, students of Prairie View, if you don't do anything else this year while you're here, make sure you attend this year's Spring Fest events. What more can you ask for? Monday through Thursday is FREE.

Elections from page 1

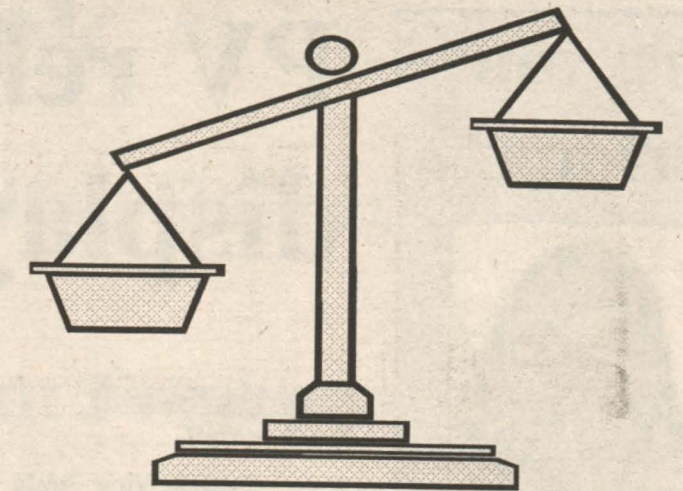
previous years, tallying of votes required the help of approximately five people. Later scantrons were used but the availability of the scantron machine and the manpower to make it happen

posed a problem. Now, with the computer system, three people can complete the task.

Running for president yesterday were senior electrical engineering major Hendrik Maison, junior electrical engineering major Marcus Joubert, and senior biology major Stacy Lloyd. Maison was running for re-election.

Vice presidential candidates were junior interdisciplinary studies major Trenise Green and senior criminal justice and education major Vivian Spikes.

Cristina Lee, Vernon Blanson Jr., Warren Hardy, Christopher Dudley, and Quinlan Motley ran unopposed for comptroller, vice president of academic affairs, vice president of student and enrollment services, vice president of finance and administration and senator for University College.



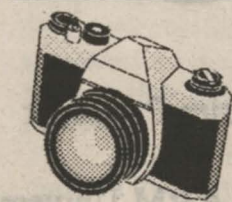
SGA Speaks Out Friday, April 4

Protest against the war and the Affirmative Action Decision

Location: Alumni Hall

Time: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**If you would like to speak on the mic about the war come to Delco Rm. 115 or just show up outside of Alumni and demonstrate how the war affects you.*



PURPLE & GOLD POLL



Do movies such as 'Bringing Down the House' and 'Barber Shop' offend African-Americans?



Chris J. Quinine

Sophomore/Management Information Systems

"No, it's just a comedy and shouldn't be taken so seriously."



Shaundretta Hunt

Sophomore/Electrical Engineering Technology

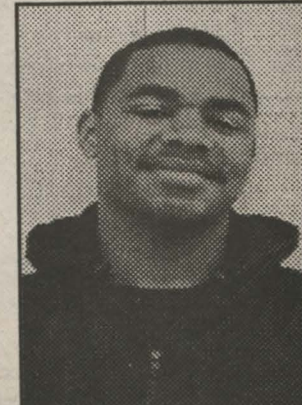
"No, they're just movies and you shouldn't take offense to it."



Natasha Octave

Sophomore/Early Childhood Education

"No! Because politicians are blowing it out of proportion."



Jermaine Shetwell

Sophomore/Management Information System

"No, I don't."

Photos By:Christina Johnson

The 34th Annual Miss Prairie View A&M University Scholarship Pageant

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You must know:

- *Goodluck to PV Track Teams at TX Relays.
- *Spring Fest is on its way!
- *Does PV accept Gay and Lesbian lifestyles?
- *Get your summer and fall course book.
- *Early registration starts April 15.

Our university is aware of our needs and does its best to satisfy them anyway it can.

In conclusion:
APRIL FOOLS' PV!

Are you serious?



By Leona Aaron
Panther Staff

While searching the internet I came upon a controversial topic that has been plaguing our society for quite some time. Getting paid to play sports at college or high school level. What was so surprising about it is that there were more people for getting paid than against. My question for those who are in favor of getting paid is: Are you serious? At the high school level of play you are just now developing your skills.

Meaning you are just coming into your game and learning what it means to be a team player. In college you are getting paid, that scholarship you, pays for everything and shouldn't that be payment enough?

There's nothing wrong with admiring the Kobe Bryants and Kevin Garnetts of the world. But if you don't know about the sacrifice they had to make you will be wasting your time.

Kobe came off the bench two or more years playing behind Eddie Jones. Then it took him a couple of years to develop his all around game. Kevin is just now becoming the player everyone knows he can be.

If you get an education you are already on a high level of play. The transition from high school to college is hard enough but you want to take a jump, skip, and hop to pro.

Go to college and don't get caught up in this superficial world where you think money makes the person. All the money in the world can't buy you happiness.

PV relays provide exciting display of track events

By Steven Kennedy
Panther Staff

Prairie View A&M University held its 74th annual Prairie View relays this past weekend from March 28-29, at Blackshear Stadium.

The weather finally cooperated providing a lot of sunshine and no rain during the relays. The track & field event also attracted more schools to the meet than recent years.

Prairie View A&M's men and women track & field squads provided another exciting day of track & field for the home fans. The men's team once again turned in great performances in most of the events, backing up their strong performance a week ago at the Texas Southern relays.

After receiving Athlete of the Week honors sprinter Henry Harris backed it up on the track turning in great races in the 4x200 meter relay, and the 4x400 meter relay.

Other PVU runners who provided strong races were Lewis Edmonson, Jack Owens, Jacques Hudson, and many freshmen on the track squad who also stepped up to the challenge.

The women's team finished the day with great races as well. Receiving Athlete of the Week Honors last week, Kandace Collins, turned in great performances, mainly in the 100-meter hurdles. The women's team also had a

strong showing in most of the relays as well. Other SWAC schools competing were Grambling State, Texas Southern, Alcorn State, Mississippi Valley State, and Arkansas Pine Bluff.

In the high school boy's division the competition was evenly balanced, but Alief

400 meters with Jackson (59.59), and Hill (59.95). Smiley went at it with

Hightower in the preliminaries and in the finals in the 4x100 relay coming away with a victory in the end.

Smiley put

Carolina, and many other elite track and field squads.

LSU is the defending national champion on the men's side, and contains many All-Americans like Bennie Brazell, Robert Parham, Kelly Willie, and Pete Coley. LSU also has a number of All-

Americans on the women's side with Muna Lee, Lolo Jones, and Stephanie Durst.

Texas relays track meet will set the pace for the remainder of the season. PV wants to prove why they've been on top for so long. Everyone is well prepared



Photo By Gitonga M'Mbijewe

Hastings, and Alief Elsik had the strongest showings. Elsik won the 4x100 relay (42.35), 4x400 relay (3:24.23), and had a first place finisher in the 400-meter run, and the 100-meter dash with state runner Marvin Stevenson (49.10), and Taylor (10.79).

Hastings won the 4x200 relay in (1:29.53), and also finished third in the team standings with 94 points. Alief Taylor finished first in the team standings with 99 points. Sugar Land Willowridge, and Houston Nimitz also turned in strong performances.

In the high school girl's division, Houston Forest Brook, Houston Smiley, and Hightower owned the show. Forest Brook won the 4x400 relay, and went one-two in the

Hightower to the test in the 4x200 relay as well. But Hightower took home the ultimate goal by winning the team competition with 84 points.

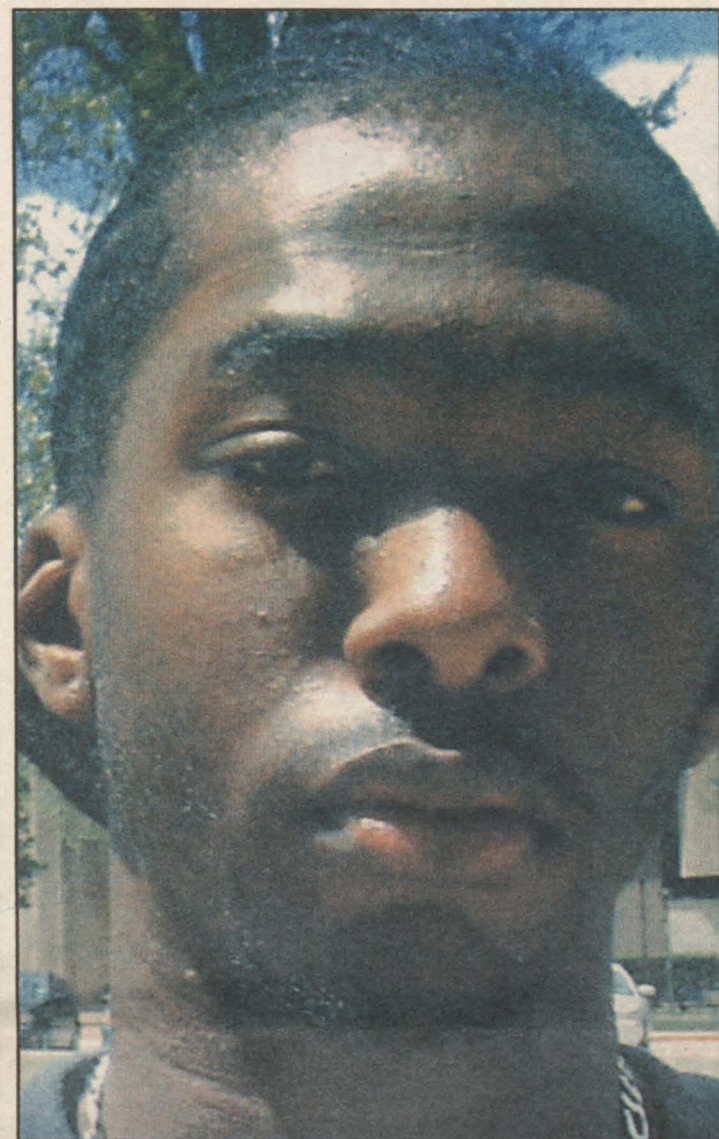
Next up for Prairie View A&M's track squad is the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays in Austin, Texas. The Texas Relays will be held April 3-5. This will probably be the biggest meet on the schedule for Prairie View A&M.

Unlike other track meets the Texas Relays will provide a NCAA championship type atmosphere, and will showcase some of the top college track teams in the nation including University of Texas, Baylor, LSU, South

and are excited about how intense the last few track meets have been. For the past two weeks they have been getting greater by each step. Hard practice through the week has shown how much they have improved each week. Keep up the hard work and we will continue to support you all the way.

Good luck this week and try not to run too many circles around people.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Charlton Doucette

Classification: Freshman

Hometown: Houston

Height: 6 ft

Weight: 190 lb

Claim to fame: Keeping everyone on their toes

PV intramural basketball starts off with a bang

By Steven Kennedy
Panther Staff

Another excellent season of intramural basketball underway last Thursday evening in the first game between the Dynasty, and team Special Delivery, in the Baby Dome. The game attracted a nice crowd that grew gradually during the contest. Aubrey Sloan led all scorers for the Dynasty with 12 points. When asked what was the strategy for the game Sloan replied, "We really didn't have a strategy, we just went out there and hooped."

The game between the two teams was very close most of the evening. Great defense was being displayed from both sides, and the game seemed to be over with less than 10 seconds left on the

clock in the second half with the Dynasty down by 3 points 28-25. But that's when Frederick Austin (Reese) of team Dynasty checked into the game and knocked down a clutch three-pointer to send the game into overtime.

In overtime the two teams once again battled down to the wire, but the Dynasty got the upper hand and pulled off a 37-31 victory, despite not having two key players on the team, their starting point guard and one of their power forwards. Brett Irvin, Arthur Smith, Robin Kirkland, and Dominique Johnson of team Dynasty also turned in strong performances. Next week at the baby dome there will be more contestants ready to challenge team Dynasty.

The second game of the evening was between the Untouchables, and team M.W.E., another exciting basketball contest displaying unlimited amounts of talent. Team M.W.E. led by coach Terry Lewis Jr. (Chi-town) seemed to have the game on lock down, jumping off to an 11-2 run at the start of the game. But M.W.E. had the advantage by owning the last possession, and when they inbounded the ball it ended up in Sonier's hands.

With the game being tied Sonier had no choice but to get the ball as far down the court as he could and throw up a decent shot from far out, and that's just what he did hitting nothing but net winning the game in dramatic fashion for M.W.E. 54-51. Christian Sonier ended up with 21 points to

pointers, and coming up with steals on the defensive end to put the game back into M.W.E.'s favor. The game still remained anybody's game coming down to the wire with the score still tied at 51 with less than five seconds left on the clock in the second half.

But M.W.E. had the advantage by owning the last possession, and when they inbounded the ball it ended up in Sonier's hands. With the game being tied Sonier had no choice but to get the ball as far down the court as he could and throw up a decent shot from far out, and that's just what he did hitting nothing but net winning the game in dramatic fashion for M.W.E. 54-51. Christian Sonier ended up with 21 points to

lead all scorers. There is more to come in intramural with the girls getting started. With more teams getting added to the tournament bracket, women's games are becoming more intense. With double elimination anything can happen. Spectators are enjoying all the physical and mental toughnees that's been shown on the court. Anything goes when you are playing game of basketball. Other games are being posted as some teams get sent home early while the teams that defeat them wait on the next competitor. The display of talent on the court proves how much PV has.



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Weekly Update for Freshmen

STUDY! STUDY! STUDY!

- 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.
- If you had less than a "C" or "S" in a developmental class at midterm, you can *not* early register

April 7 Spring Fest begins
 April 9 Education Job Fair
 April 15 Early registration starts
 April 30 Study Days begin
 May 2-7 Final exams begin

• Building #42 began their biweekly Mentoring Program at Jones Elementary School. Approximately 24 residents attended the first After School program and assisted the younger students in arts and crafts. Everyone had a great time.

• Building #35 placed 2nd in the dorm step-off.

• Building #41 sponsored a "Guaranteed 4.0 Seminar" with NSBSE. It was a great success!



health hints

ALLERGIES

WHAT IS IT?

You have an allergy when your immune system reacts too strongly to things that don't harm most people. To fight what it mistakes as a threat, the system sends out histamine—a chemical present in body tissue—as well as other substances that can bring on bouts of feeling itchy, stuffy, sneezy, and sick.

The most widespread type of allergy is allergic rhinitis, better known as hay fever. Allergies to things in the air may also trigger attacks of asthma for some people. Certain cosmetics, dyes, chemicals, and plants can cause rashes when they touch the skin of an allergic person.

Improved care can now provide greater relief than ever from the allergy blues.

SYMPTOMS

Hay fever (allergic rhinitis)

- *Frequent sneezing.
- *Runny or stuffy nose.
- *Itchy or watery eyes.
- *Itching in back of throat or on roof of mouth.

Allergic asthma

- *Wheezing and coughing.
- *In some cases, chest tightness that can make breathing difficult.

www.health.com

Spring Fest 2003: Calendar of Events

Monday, April 7

**Family Feud*
West Wing of Alumni
7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8

**Probate Show*
Baby Dome
6 p.m.-7 p.m.
**The Java House Poetry Jam*
West wing of Alumni
7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9

**Talent Show*
Billy J. Nicks "Baby Dome"
7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Thursday, April 10

**Inflatable Carnival*
Back of Coleman Library
7 p.m.-11 p.m.

Friday, April 11

**Concert and Glow Zone After Party*
Billy J. Nicks "Baby Dome"
8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Saturday, April 12

**Purple and Gold Scrimmage*
Blackshear Stadium
10 a.m.
**PV Stomp Down*
Billy Nicks "Baby Dome"
8 p.m.-2 a.m.

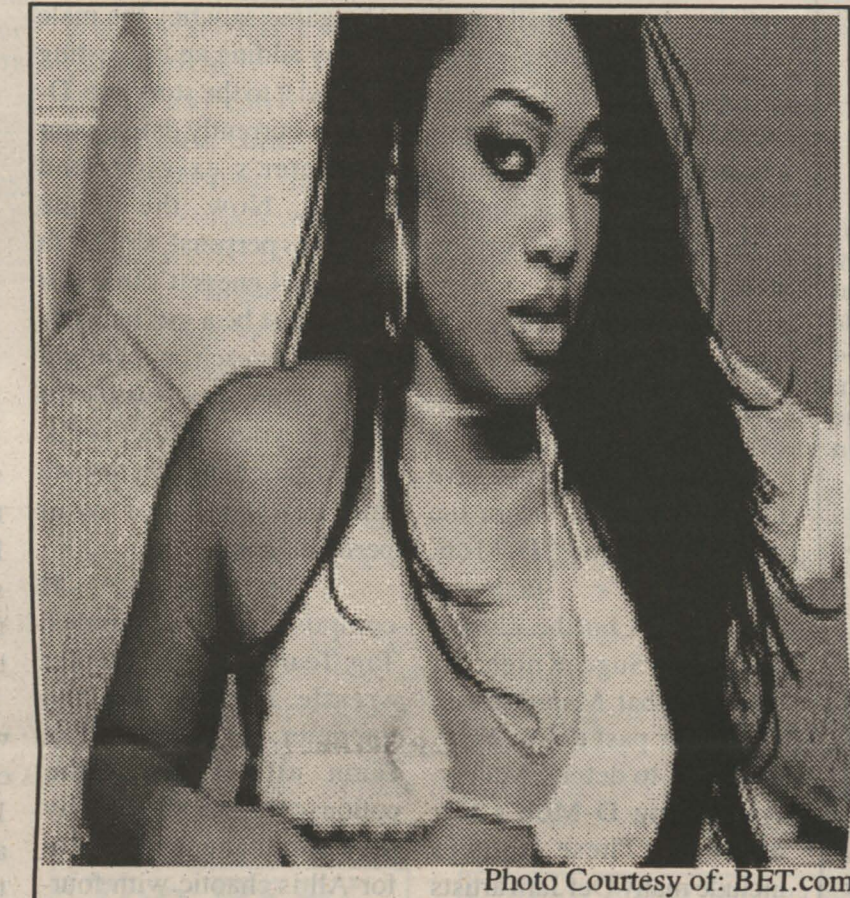


Photo Courtesy of: BET.com

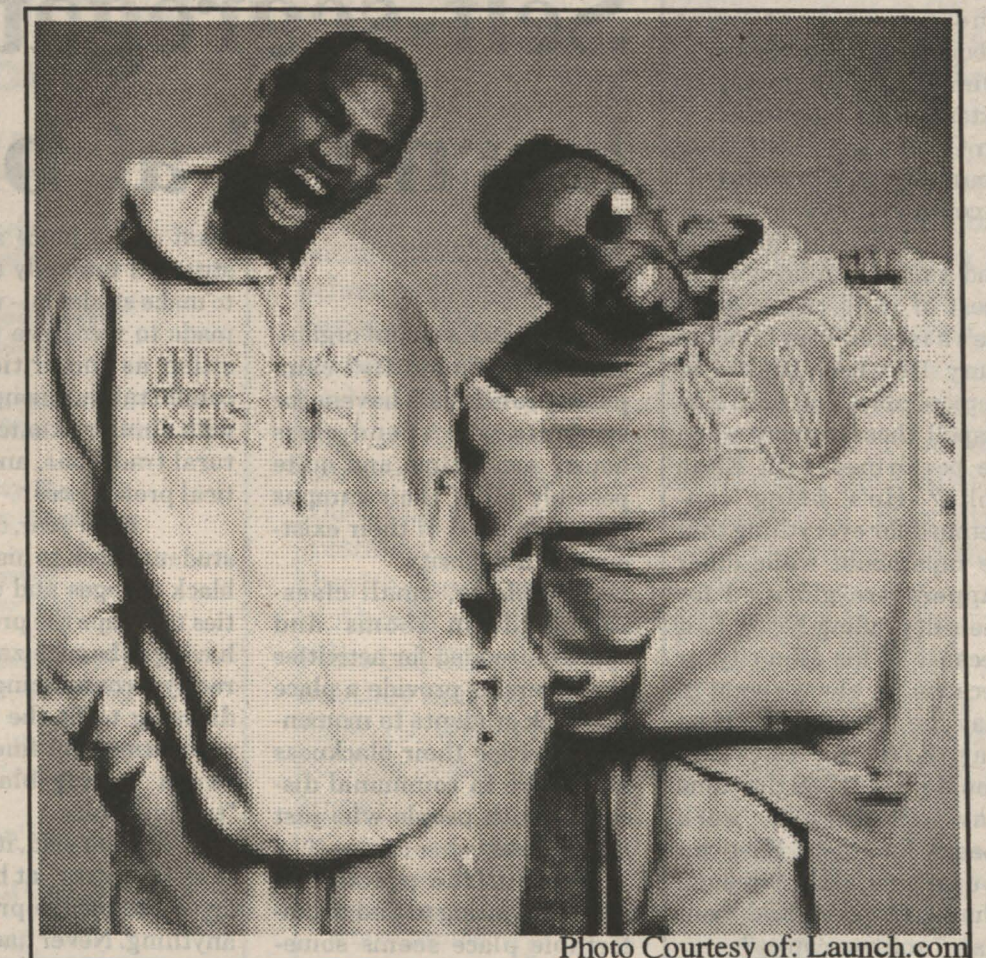


Photo Courtesy of: Launch.com

Racist Respect



By NiRoshia Smith Panther Staff

Everyone in music is striving for a Grammy. And every actor wants that coveted Oscar. Few people in the spotlight are blessed enough to achieve both honors. One entertainer who has both of these golden awards is Eminem.

Even before the "look-alike" version of his life in 8 Mile, we'd already seen every negative aspect of his personal business slain in all media types. Mainstream rappers began to get scared after noticing that he had more than just bubble gum rhymes in 1999 after he received a Grammy for "My Name Is." After winning for Best Rap Solo Performance, he went on to receive two awards in 2000. These were for "Forgot About Dre", and "The Real Slim Shady." Last week he extended his list by winning an Oscar for 8 Mile's "Lose Yourself." So why aren't we accepting him as a rapper?

Marshall Mathers had a similar upbringing as most of rap's rising stars. He's a regular rags to riches story. He's been said to be homophobic, but didn't he dispell those rumors when he performed with Elton John? He's being condemned for everything that he raps about while other rappers are glorified for their degrading lyrics. Is it because of his ethnicity, or because we always want to play the "race card?" If he was African American would we still feel the same way? Eminem's work speaks for itself. How can you argue with someone who's last record sold more than 7 million copies?

Def Jam rappers looking for fight in new video game

By NiRoshia Smith Panther Staff

Ever wonder what would happen if Def Jam's rappers really had to fight in the streets? Well EA Games satisfies your curiosity with their new wrestling game, *Def Jam Vendetta*. Complete with diamond neckpieces, character slang, and exciting battle venues, it's a hip-hop video enthusiasts' dream come true.

The game opens with players gaining entrance into an underground fight ring in New York. The player's choice character must save his friend Manny from the main Villain, D-Mob. Maybe it's just a coincidence, but he closely resembles Suge Knight. It turns out that Manny owes D-Mob for past debts. Your mission is to defend Manny by fighting D-Mob's top wrestlers. These fighters include many Def Jam artists

such as Ludacris, Method Man, Redman, N.O.R.E., Ghostface Killah, Scarface, and many others. With every match you win, the money is used to pay D-Mob back. The game satisfies the male ego by adding an interesting plot twist to the storyline. D-Mob is currently dating your character's ex-girlfriend Angel. Now the game becomes personal, similar to hip-hop. I guess it's true that there must be a girl in every story. After each bout you are given the opportunity to upgrade your fighting skills. You'll be graded on a scale and rewarded for your performance.

The game is composed of four modes. Tag Team lets the players wrestle each other, the computer, or a friend. Tag Team allows the same option; only four people may play simultaneously. Free-for-All is chaotic with four-

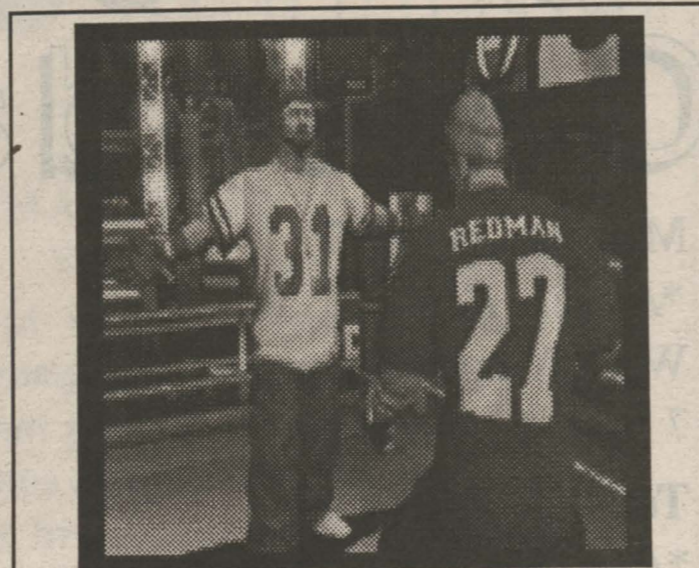


Photo courtesy of Google Images
The popular duo Redman and Method Man pair up to wrestle together in latest video game.

way extreme playing. For the determined, there's Handicapped, where a single player battles two or three opponents together at the same time.

Jam-packed with 47 wrestlers, 10 themed environments, and over 1500 maneuvers the options are endless. EA is scheduled to release this game later this

month. Can't wait until the release, catch a preview scene of the game on MTV's "Making of the Video Game"

Self-segregation unnecessary, harmful at black universities

By David Johnson Black College Wire

Black student organizations on "majority" campuses provide safe havens for students who spend class hours, social time and quite possibly all of their campus time reminded of their existence as a minority.

There, small classrooms, dorm rooms and spaces intended for activities or rehearsals provide a place for black students to momentarily escape their blackness and share in communal discourse with people who just understand.

But the practice of self-segregating to find a comfortable place seems some-

what out of place at an institution uniquely designed to make students -- normally made to recognize their position as minorities -- feel comfortable among people with similar skin tones, cultural traditions, and dialectical preferences.

Each year, countless students flock to historically black colleges and universities to escape the pressure of having to be cognizant of correctly pronouncing words, dressing to fit the norm or navigating that fine line between "acting black" and "talking white."

That said, it appears to be the norm -- at black colleges -- to pledge practically anything. Never had I heard

of someone going through a formal "process" to declare allegiance to a dormitory.

Too often, students at HBCUs place inclusion in a group or association before academic and personal responsibilities-- and for what? My HBCU is a big organization that students should feel proud to belong to. They should walk on the Yard or pass through the Valley and say "What's up?" to one another and take pride in experiencing all that the university has to offer-- together.

We as black Americans have our entire lives to negotiate isolating situations. The practice of voluntarily dividing ourselves into

fractions -- just to belong -- seems unnecessary and fundamentally backward. Students at all HBCUs should adopt the collective mentalities of such prominent black movements as Pan Africanism and the Black Arts to reverse the individualistic and selfish mentalities associated with our generation.

Striving to unify with one another, at an institution we chose partly to share in experiences with people who look like one another, can only facilitate the ability to revel in the comfort, power and strength of solidarity.

2003 College Seminar

Special to the Panther

The National Football League will host its annual College Seminar for undergraduate and graduate students on Monday, April 7, in Houston, TX. The event will be held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Ballroom C at 5:00 p.m. and conclude at 6:30 p.m.

Students will be addressed by NFL executives in the areas of public and community relations on their experiences. This will be an excellent opportunity for students to network with NFL executives from all 32 teams

as well as NFL league-office personnel.

Each student should bring resumes with cover letters to the seminar. Refreshments will be served following the event. Students who would like to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity should RSVP to davisk@nfl.com or call (212) 450-2385 for any additional information.

The address of the J.W. Marriott: 5150 Westheimer St. Houston, TX 77056 Ballroom C (2nd level)

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Panther Poetry Lounge

Conversation

By: Curtis Eli

Conversation can be weak, Conversation can be strong, if you have no conversation you might be alone. Conversation defines charm, which makes your heart feel warm. Do you have charm? Cause if so, if it was lightning outside you would hold your lady through the storm. They say conversation rules the nation, but if your conversation is adequate there should be no hesitation. Even women have charm, sometimes it's hard to visualize because it comes with no shape, fashion or form. The GAME is expanding day by day, you have to peep game and watch what they say. Communication = Conversation. Sometimes we've heard stuff so real it makes our heart start racing. Don't always start chasing, but never stay stationed, when our mates start acting up that's when it's time to start replacing. The game can be spoken or broken, but when you get hurt that's when it's time to start coping. Some players and playerettes call up their ex just to see if they could have sex. Never tell how you run your game, cause it could come back on you and make you feel pain. Just the simplest greeting could open up your game. If you've been in the game for a while your game shouldn't be lame. If it's problems you are facing, always remember you can laugh through good conversation.

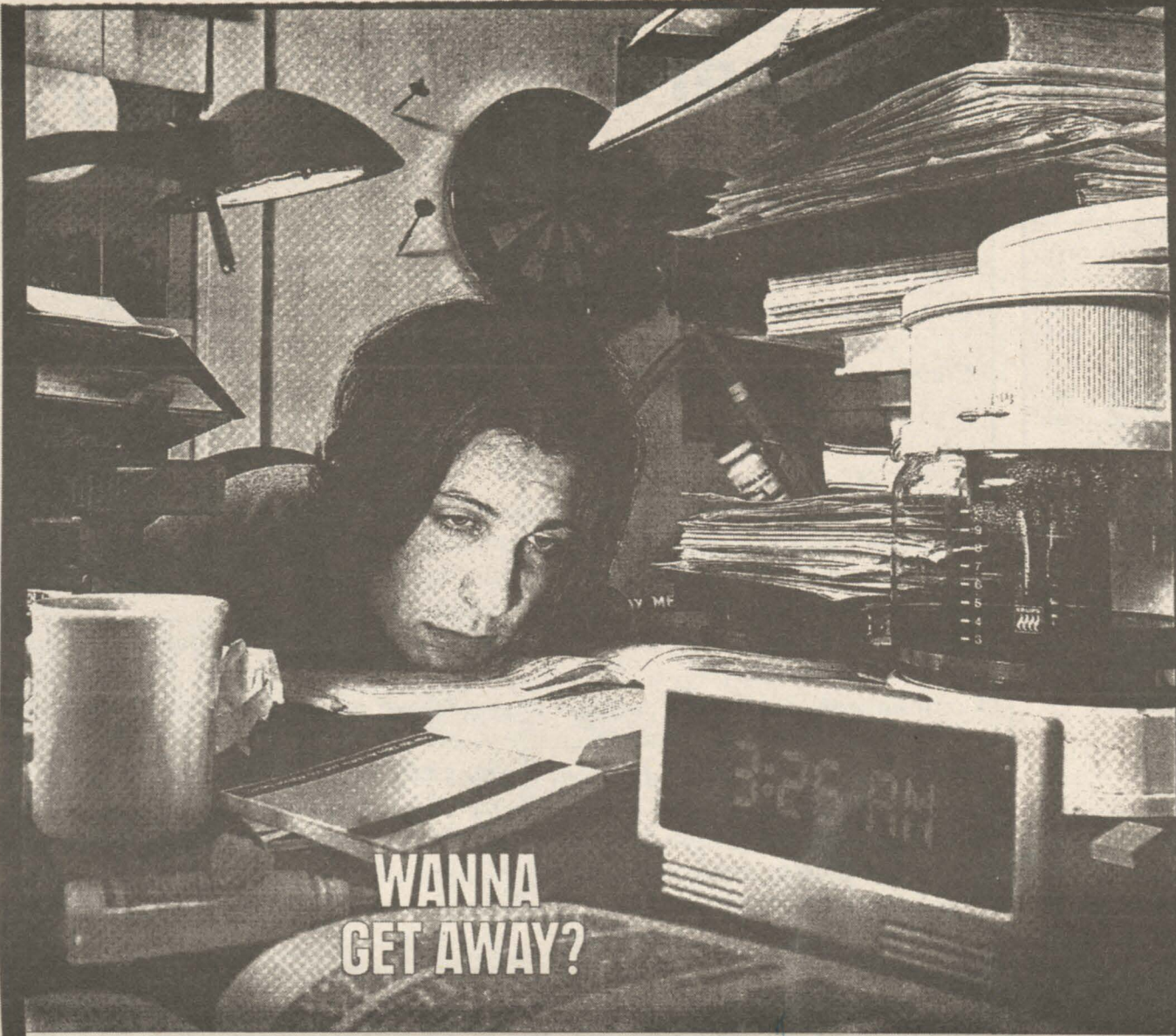
Top R&B/ Hip-Hop Albums

1. "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" -50 Cent
2. "Chocolate Factory" -R. Kelly
3. "StreetDreams" -Fabolous
4. "La Bella Mafia" -Lil' Kim
5. "Dutty Rock" -Sean Paul
6. "Monster" -Killer Mike
7. "Philadelphia Free way" -Freeway
8. Soundtrack: Cradle 2 the Grave
9. "Livin' Legend" -B.G.
10. "Still Ghetto" -Jaheim

www.billboard.com

1. Which Sigma washes dishes for sandwiches? 2. How many girls want to be in an organization but don't know when it was founded? 3. Why is rent going up? 4. Does it cost a lot to keep rodents there? 5. Which Sigma Juliet just passed the TASP and had it on the back of her shirt? 6. How many Sigma Juliets went to jail because of something that was in 20 questions? 7. When the Kappas dress up are they wearing Easter suits? 8. Why is there a Smacks cutout in Alumni, but they don't serve Smacks? 9. Since the school is broke, will we make deposits when we pre-register? 10. Is Beget performing at Springfest because of costs? 11. How many pretty girls are in the Lady of the Dove pageant? 12. Which Delta wears a wig? 13. Are they trying to break a record building the new buildings in UC? 14. Who told the KKKs they could call themselves Pretty Girls? 15. How many freshman girls are dating upperclassmen and think they're the only one? 16. Shouldn't the guy who sings in Alumni all the time be on American Idol? 17. Who takes bicycle cops seriously? 18. How many girls found out they had the same boyfriend last week in the Village? 19. Which CSO organization's (GSS) line jackets look better than everyone else's? 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. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther



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