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Prairie View A&M University

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The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Inside
this week



Which African American has influenced your life the most?

Page 4



Who ya rootin' for? PV fans show love for athletics.

Page 6



Is there a future in fashion's past?

Page 11

BLACK History Hotlist

The office of special programs in the Division for Student and Enrollment Services has issued the following list of events for celebrating Black History:

Thursday, Feb. 20:
Black History Dance Concert: "Celebration of the Disinherited."

Black History Dance Concert: "Celebration of the Disinherited."

See the world renowned Exclamation Dance Company of Houston, Texas, perform a black heritage dance concert. The concert will be a rhythmical journey celebrating life, love, and liberty through the music of the African American experience. It's sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Beta Chapter.

General Admission: Free 7:30 p.m.
Hobart Taylor Recital Hall.

Author Tayari Jones Comes to Prairie View

Ms. Tayari Jones, award winning author of *Leaving Atlanta*, will be at the John B. Coleman Library at 2 p.m. in Rm. 108/109.

Campus police to beef up security

By Candice Grizzell
Panther Staff

The Department of Public Safety is in the process of hiring six police officers in an effort to improve campus security.

Police Chief Rayford Stephens said, "There are six vacancies that need to be filled, but we are hoping to hire eight additional officers depending on funding."

Stephens noted that hiring additional officers will

cost approximately \$366,000. "American Campus Communities, the company responsible for managing the Villages, said they would fund \$200,000 so the university would then be required to put up the additional \$166,000 per year," said Stephens. "The first six positions should be filled within the next month."

According to Stephens, hiring additional officers is necessary for improving campus safety. He

said, "We want someone who can communicate with the students and faculty and enforce the law without prejudice to the student body."

With the number of students residing on campus, residential safety is of paramount importance. Dispatcher Tameko Sanders thinks the university should invest in surveillance cameras for the residential parking lots, which would help minimize break-ins.

"There are students on campus here for educational purposes, and then there are students here for the wrong reasons," said Sanders. "A lot of innocent students are affected."

Stephens noted that on-campus housing has active security and the police department has two to three officers patrolling the campus.

See Police page 5

FIRST IN HIS CLASS

Gregory Roberts named Most Transitional Student in the United States

By Barbara Ramirez
Panther Staff

"I strive to be the best that I can be—to be at the top of my game because I know if I bring my "A" game—I'm nearly impossible to overtake."

-freshman theater major Gregory Roberts.

The inspirational quote above could have been made by any student but Gregory Roberts is no ordinary student. Despite his blindness he displays a remarkable charisma that has earned him the title, "Most Transitional Student of the United States." The title, as Roberts explained, is given to students with disabilities who work hard and excel despite their condition.

Roberts described his trip to Austin, Texas, where he

See Roberts page 5



Photo by Leona Aaron

Freshman Gregory Roberts answers the phone while working in the University College Advisors' office. Roberts was named the Most Transitional Male Student of the Year by President George W. Bush.

•State•

PV's Seven Day Forecast

Wed Feb. 19 Isolated T-Storms 65°/50°

Thu Feb. 20 Scattered T-Storms 65°/52°

Fri Feb. 21 Scattered T-Storms 68°/41°

Sat Feb. 22 Mostly Sunny 60°/49°

Sun Feb. 23 Isolated T-Storms 67°/47°

Mon Feb. 24 Cloudy 63°/53°

Tue Feb. 25 Mostly Cloudy 67°/51°

courtesy of weather.com

•National•

Scottsdale to cut teachers to save

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) - Scottsdale middle schools will have smaller teaching staffs and fewer elective options as the Scottsdale Unified School District seeks to save money.

The changes, which will include having teachers instruct an extra hour, will save the district \$1.2 million to \$1.8 million and eliminate 35 to 45 positions, said associate superintendent Don Jefferies.

While the district is still in the final planning stages, changes to the teaching schedule and exploratory classes are unavoidable, Jefferies said.

Perry proposes plans for tuition deregulation

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) - Recent proposals to deregulate tuition at Texas universities will allow administrators to tailor costs for students at each individual institution, Gov. Rick Perry said.

Tuition deregulation would allow the board of regents at each school to set tuition rates. Some officials have expressed that deregulation would increase tuition and shift the financial burden from the state to the students and families.

Perry estimated his proposals would reduce the state budget by \$9.5 billion to counteract an anticipated \$9.9 billion budget shortfall.

•World•

Secretary of State Talks Strategy... Teenager arrested for burning pages from the Quran

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) - A Muslim teenager was arrested Sunday in eastern Pakistan after neighbors complained to police that he was burning pages from the Quran, Islam's holiest book, and throwing them into the street.

Tauqeer Abbas, 19, was taken into custody from his home. The teen faces charges of blasphemy, which can carry the death sentence in Pakistan, an Islamic republic.

Abbas, a computer science student, denied the allegations and accused his neighbors of making up a case against him.

Sydney airport evacuated due to false fire alarm

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Security guards evacuated hundreds of people from Sydney's international airport for about half an hour Monday night due to a technical fault in the fire alarm system.

Sydney Airports Corp. spokesman Peter Gibbs said even though the alarm was triggered by a technical fault and there had been no fire, emergency procedures required the airport to be evacuated.

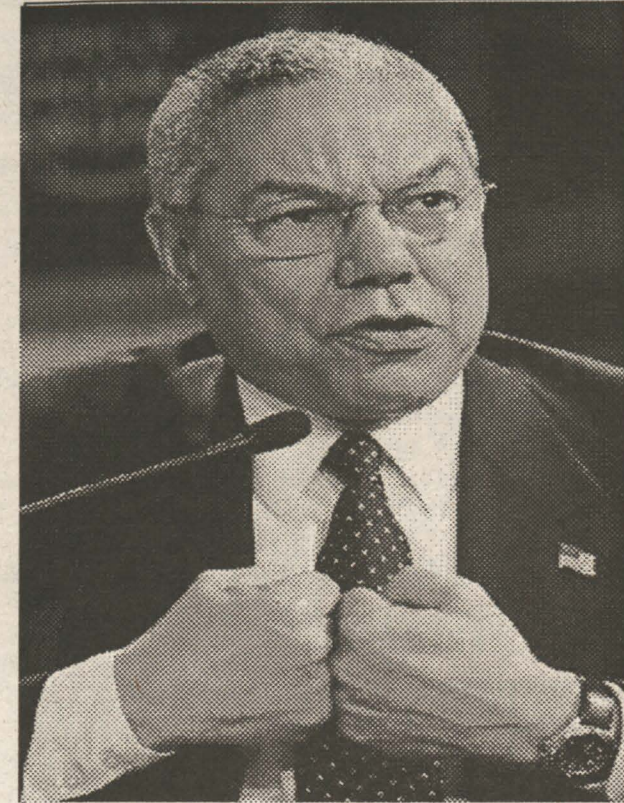


Photo courtesy of google.com. Although he's making plans to fight the war against Iraq, Secretary of State Colin Powell will be the keynote speaker for an upcoming youth summit hosted by BET. Students can submit their questions to Powell by logging on to bet.com.

The Panther

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

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

Submission Policy for Letters to the Editor

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

New South, Old Ways

Racism still exists in America



By Christina Johnson Panther Staff

"Welcome To The New South." These words and the rolling Mississippi River greeted us as we entered the city of Jackson.

The Panther staff spent Valentine's Day weekend in Jackson for the HBCU Newspaper Conference. We were very excited to be there - until we

received our first real taste of the "New South."

As we drove through downtown, we saw dull-colored buildings with tall columns and high ceilings that remind you of old plantation houses. There was a mural on Pearl Street near Jackson State University of a white and black male. The white male had on baggy jeans, a bandana, and chains. The caption read "White Rules." The black male had on a hoodie, with a caption that read "Future Crack Head."

What really shocked us was the Mississippi state flag. Waving high in the sky, the red and white stripes were nice but the confederate flag symbol was staring right back at us, reminding us of where we've been, how far we've come, and how much more work we have to do to make

things right. We couldn't believe that a sign of oppression and ignorance is supposed to represent the state of Mississippi and the city of Jackson, the "New South."

When we asked the shuttle driver about the flag, he stated, "It's not a sign of oppression. Nothing's wrong with it." Maybe we're crazy, but we've never experienced open racism like that. Or have we?

Maybe we came into contact with it through a snide remark someone made, or at the grocery store when the clerk had a bad attitude with us, or maybe at work when all odds were against "us" and we had to sell ourselves short to keep food on the table and a roof over our heads.

Today in society there is an underlying tone of racism we just don't recognize.

Dr. Bee Jay Freeman, professor of English, calls it sophisticated racism. We call it subtle racism. Racism is still in full effect today; it's just more advanced. It must stop. We've come too far to go back to Jim Crow laws and the "separate but equal" status.

All we're asking is that you keep your eyes and minds open to what's going on around you. Yes, the world has changed a lot over the past 40 years, but some things are still the same. Racism will reside in America until everyone can come together and live in peace and harmony.

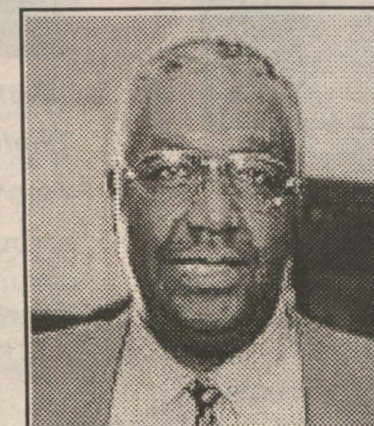
Spotlight on lack of black coaches

By Editorial Board, The Hilltop Black College Wire

unfair instances that have occurred in the NFL.

It is no secret that the number of black coaches in professional football is largely disproportionate to the number of black players, an issue that has received much attention lately. ESPN hosted a panel discussion at Howard University's Cramton Auditorium in which the central topic was the hiring of more black coaches in the NFL.

Among the panelists were former Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and Eddie George of the NFL's Tennessee Titans. They discussed some of the



John Thompson

Despite mandates that call for at least three minority applicants to be considered for head coach positions, teams have gotten around this stipulation. Coach Steve Marucci was fired as head

coach of the San Francisco 49ers, only to be immediately picked up by the Detroit Lions. The interviewing of three black men was only a formality and only for show. Those men were never really given a fair chance because the Lions had already

take place, it is good to know that people are not just sitting back complacently.

We are glad that such an issue was discussed in an academic environment. It is not often that people in academia venture to explore ethical issues in professional sports. It is good that we have realized that discrimination in any arena affects us all. The implementation of affirmative action should not just be limited to educational institutions or jobs.

We applaud ESPN and Howard for bringing something so important to light. Perhaps the discussion of this situation will pave the way for real change.

planned to hiring Marucci. When such incidents

MOBILE SOUND advertisement listing various audio equipment like cell phones, DVD players, speakers, and amplifiers with prices and contact information.

campus FUNDRAISER advertisement for student groups, offering fundraising services and contact details.

Dr. B. Love advertisement featuring a DJ and contact information for events.

Bartender Trainees needed \$250 a day potential local positions 1-800-293-3985 ext. 767

For Lease: Waller, TX 1 Bedroom \$325 2 Bedroom \$425 Contact Pam at 281-798-0713

Bill's Fresh N Fried Seafood "Specials" menu listing items like Catfish nuggets, Drumfish, and Shrimp and fries with prices.

Guilty as charged



Denise Cohen
Panther Staff

What do you get when you put a jealous wife filled with "sudden passion" and a 4,000 pound Mercedes Benz together at a hotel? How about 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine?

That's what 45-year-old Clara Harris of Clear Lake received after she mowed down her husband, David Harris, in a hotel parking lot last July after discovering him with his mistress Gail Bridges.

So that brings me to my next question, what drove this woman to run over her husband three times with her step-daughter in the front seat of the car?

Some say sudden passion, I say craziness. This woman was a well-established dentist.

She had everything, money, a big house, and did I mention a Benz? Ok, so her husband was cheating on her.

Does that give her the right to kill him and then expect to get off because of rage and because she can pay the court costs?

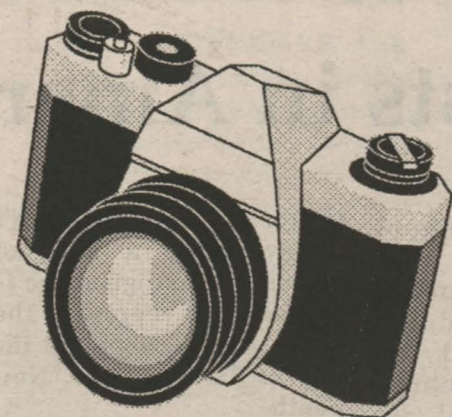
No, because thankfully the Texas judicial system saw through this "poor me" defense.

Last Thursday Harris was proclaimed "guilty" and was sentenced Friday to 20 years. She must serve at least 10 years of her sentence before she is eligible for parole.

Despite the fact that her husband's parents supported her throughout the trial I am glad the system prevailed.

I feel there is no excuse to kill a person no matter how bad passion consumes you.

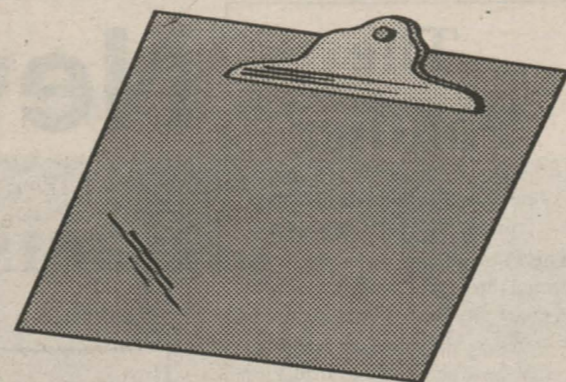
When you are competent enough to know right from wrong then you are more than deserving of the consequences when the wrong path is chosen.



PURPLE

&

GOLD



POLL

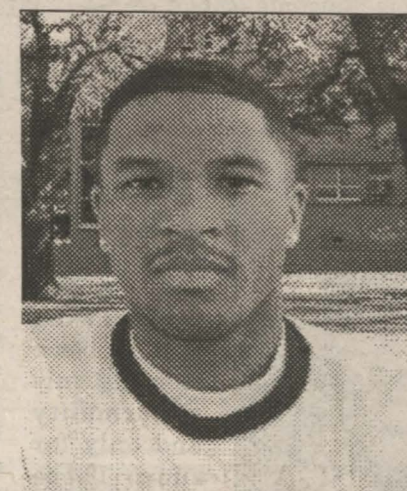


Afrah Hassan

Senior / Communications

"Nikki Giovanni,

because she was influential in fighting for equal rights for black women."

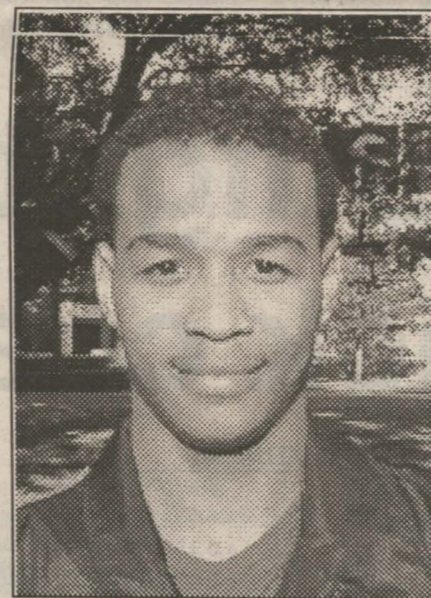


Damian Washinton

Freshman / Psychology

"Martin Luther King Jr. because his dream and vision opened doors of opportunities for many African-Americans."

Which African-American has influenced your life the most?



Kendre Stringfellow

Sophomore / Biology

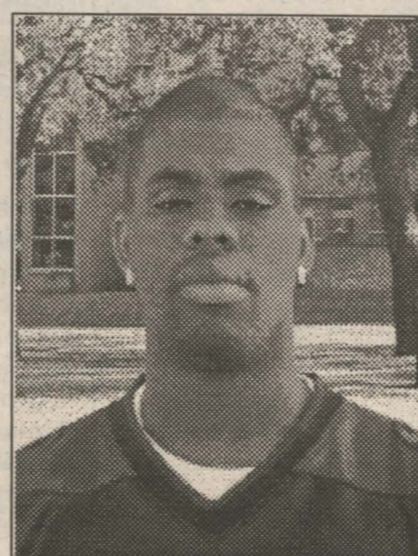
"My dad, Larry Stringfellow, because despite all the pressure, he still stands by my side."



Monique Allen

Freshman / Nursing

"Martin Luther King Jr. because he has made a difference in our society."



Tramell L. Danders

Sophomore / Criminal Justice

"Malcom X because he did a lot to inspire black people."

Police from page 1

Roberts from page 1

Stephens said that student participation is greatly appreciated in helping to eliminate campus violence. "We want students to take an active role in helping us identify the people who commit acts of violence on and off campus," he said.

According to Stephens, the campus police department plans to collaborate with the on-campus health center. "We have traditionally worked with the health center in sponsoring forums in working with victims," he said. "For instance, if a young lady is the victim of sexual assault, we do a criminal investigation, but one of the first things we do is refer that young lady to our health center for counseling."

Stephens noted that the campus police hopes to have speed bumps constructed throughout the campus to prevent cars from speeding and have the crosswalks repainted by the university's maintenance department.

and a young lady from the University of Texas received their awards as transitional students of Texas. From Austin, he flew to Washington D.C., where he and other students with disabilities got the privilege of meeting the President of the United States, got to tour the White House, view the Pentagon, and visit the Lincoln Memorial. The students were also enchanted with "a big ball on the west-wing of the White House."

Along with being named the "The Most Transitional Student in the United States," Roberts was awarded \$10,500 for each year he is in college, and he says he is "lost and overwhelmed by such a huge honor."

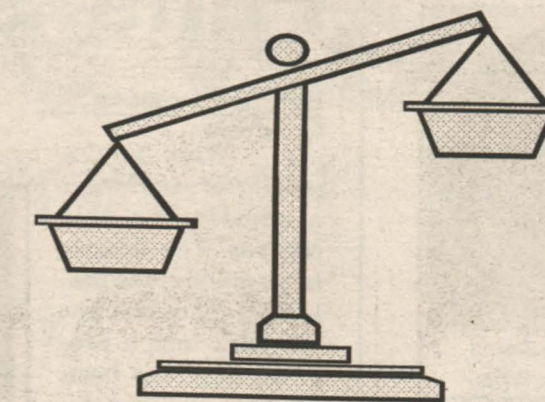
Roberts' disability does not prevent him from doing anything. In an interview with *The Panther*, he explains his disability and how it happened.

At the age of 3, Roberts' received an inaccurate dosage of penicillin, when a doctor gave him what would normally be given to people in their early adulthood. Unfortunately,

Roberts was allergic to penicillin. "It burned me from the inside out. It burned off my skin and my hair. I had to spend 18 months in the hospital. Eight out of 18 months I spent living in a bubble," said Roberts.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines bubble as a small globule, typically hollow and light. It also says it lacks firmness, solidity and reality. Roberts describes the time he spent in the bubble as, "the hardest part of my life." Ironically, Roberts does all but symbolize the bubble he spent eight months of his life in. He's twenty years old, a freshman theatre major, and works in the UC Advisors Office. He is the proud father of a 2-year old daughter whom he provides for. Some might say he's doing better than some men who can see.

With role models such as his uncle Sydney Poitier, Roberts is well on his way to becoming a greater role model. He works long hours and practices hard to one day reach his goal of becoming a great actor.



SGA Speaks Out

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Committee Chairman Meeting

Location: Delco

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Rm.: 115

Thursday, Feb. 20

Senate Meeting

Location: Administration Bldg.

Time: 7 p.m.

Rm.: Auditorium

Monday, Feb. 24

E- Board Meeting

Location: Evans Hall

Time: TBA

Rm.: Conference (3rd Floor)

JUNIOR CLASS WEEK!!!!

Feb. 24 - 28

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Sophomore Class Meeting

Location: Library

Time: TBA

Rm.: Special Events

Tuesday, Feb. 25

SGA Election Mandatory Interest Meeting

Location: Administration Bldg.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Rm.: Auditorium

In Celebration of Black History Month...



- The Dept. of Student Activities & Leadership invites students, administration, faculty, and staff to support "African Attire Day" every Wednesday in February by wearing traditional African attire or Red, Green, and Black clothing.

- The Dept. of Student Activities & Leadership, along with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Beta Chapter presents The Exclamation Dance Company of Houston performing a concert entitled "Celebration of the Disinherited" Thursday, February 20, 2003 @ 7:30 PM in Hobart Taylor Recital Hall. Admission is Free.



The concert will be a rhythmical journey celebrating life, love, and liberty through the music of the African-American experience.

- The Campus Activities Board, along with the John B. Coleman Library, Division of Social Work, Behavioral and Political Science, the Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture, presents the Annual Black History Quiz Bowl, Friday, February 28, 2003 @ 11:00 AM in the Public Events Room, John B. Coleman Library.

- A test of black history knowledge in teams of four to six members competing for \$300.00 - 1st prize, \$200.00 - 2nd prize, and \$100.00 - 3rd prize. All entries must be received by Tuesday, February 18, 2003. For further information, please call Dr. Louis Williams @ ext. 3924.



The Prairie View A&M University Royal Court

presents

"Rags to Riches"

Financial Empowerment Seminar
Wednesday, February 19, 2003
Hobart Taylor Bldg., RM 2B209

It's Spring Fever



Leona Aaron
Sports Writer

Bats are being swung, the crowd is yelling at the umpires, and people are sliding into home. Spring is here on campus and so are your returning softball and baseball teams. They are returning this year with new attitudes and the will to win. This is going to be an incredible season for both teams. They are ready to go the distance and bring more winning sports back to Prairie View. Everyone is geared up to see what the season unfolds and the many different tasks it will bring. All you will hear from now until the season ends is hard pitching, base running, and bats sending balls over the fence for homeruns.

They have gone out and recruited more girls for their softball team. You have seen them these past few weeks running around campus getting ready for the first game of the season. There's life back on the field, you can feel the excitement from the girls about this particular season. Everyone is anticipating this season because it's going to be a great one. Supporting these girls could be the lift they need to stay alive during season play. If there is no support from their school then they won't have any momentum to go out there and do the best they can. Between the rookies and returning players it's going to be a great season.

With all the success of our men's basketball team we sometimes forget that other sports need our support also. Other sports need crowd participation also because every little bit helps. Prairie View once was very dominant in all sports and we can bring that back to our campus. **GOOD LUCK PANTHERS**

Fans' support goes a long way

By Chad Bowden

Sports Writer

Who you're pulling for is no longer a question on this campus. The drastic turnaround of the basketball team has put life back into a program that has been dead for almost a decade.

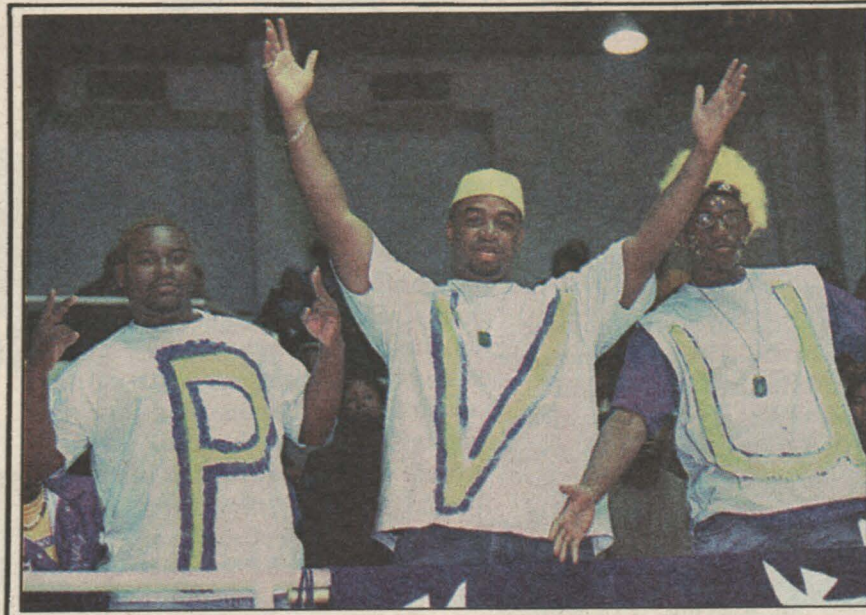
In previous years, attendance at basketball games was at an all time low. The only time you could expect a crowd was when they played Texas Southern. Things have changed in a matter of months. According to a recent article published by the Houston Chronicle, "the average attendance at a Prairie View game in the Baby Dome is about 3,000 to 4,000 people." This is a big improvement from only a few hundred who previously attended.

Attendance comparisons made with other universities in the Houston area, such as Texas Southern, show only averages between 400 and 500 attendees per game. The University of Houston averages between 300 and 500 per game. This is a university that has a student population of over 30,000. Prairie View has an enrollment of about 8,000 students, meaning that more students as well as faculty and alumni are attending games.

Prairie View players are not just receiving support in their own gym. When freshman guard Dashon Harper was asked about the support they received on the road, he said, "I can count out at least 5 or 6 people with purple and gold on at every road game. I was really shocked when I saw Prairie View supporters in New Jersey, Colorado, and Arkansas. All of our fans sat right behind our bench and cheered for us whether we were winning or losing." Seeing familiar faces on the road gives the players much needed encouragement.

During the Christmas holidays, the team went on a road trip that lasted a week.

Being on the road that long games, former players and only time fans came out to see us in the past was if it were a big rivalry game," says center Roderick Riley.



Sports Fans and Phi Beta Sigma members Darian Levi, Jermaine Jackson, and Justin Echols show their support for Panther basketball team by dressing as ultimate fans.

away from friends and family isn't easy. To see a friend or alumni at a game on the road gives the Panthers a little bit more to play for. After these

alumni come into the locker room to express how proud they are of what the players are doing. "I have never seen so many fans come out to watch us play on the road. The

added to the players. From now on, the Panthers know that they will have fans backing them up through good as well as bad times.

UNIVERSITY VILLAGE

IS NOW

LEASING FOR SUMMER AND FALL

2003

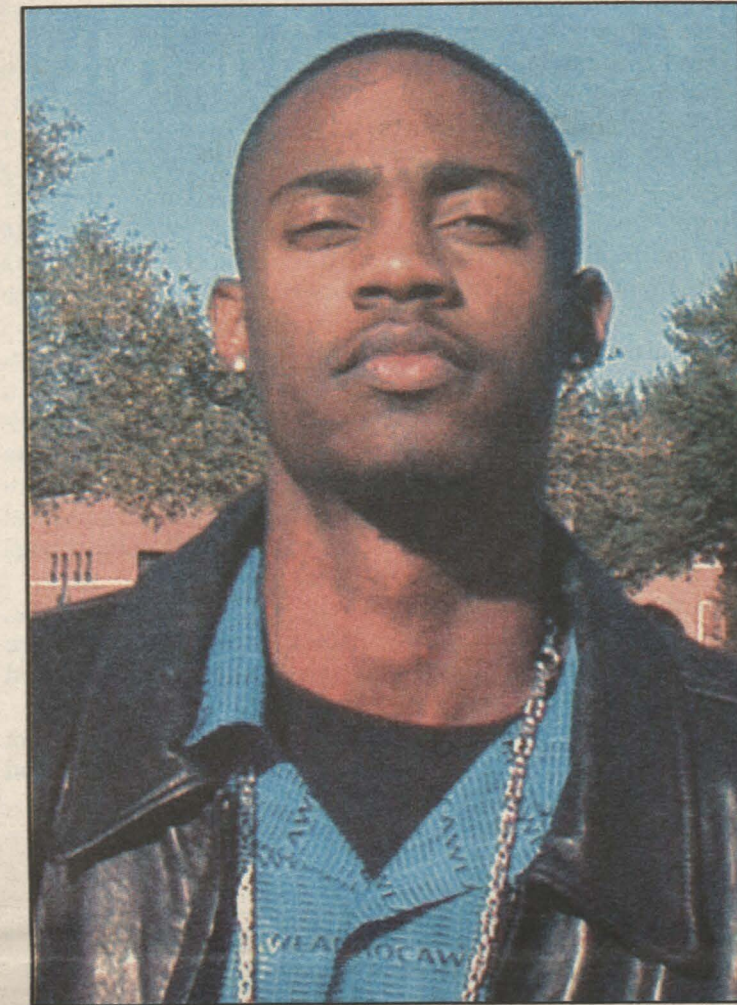
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University Village I & II			
4 Bedroom - 2 Bathroom	\$3,216.00	\$1,608.00	\$377.00
2 Bedroom - 2 Bathroom	\$3,624.00	\$1,812.00	\$428.00
University Village North			
4 Bedroom - 2 Bathroom	\$3,712.00	\$1,856.00	\$439.00
2 Bedroom - 2 Bathroom	\$4,184.00	\$2,092.00	\$498.00

Athletes of the Week



Name: Kevin Cooper #11

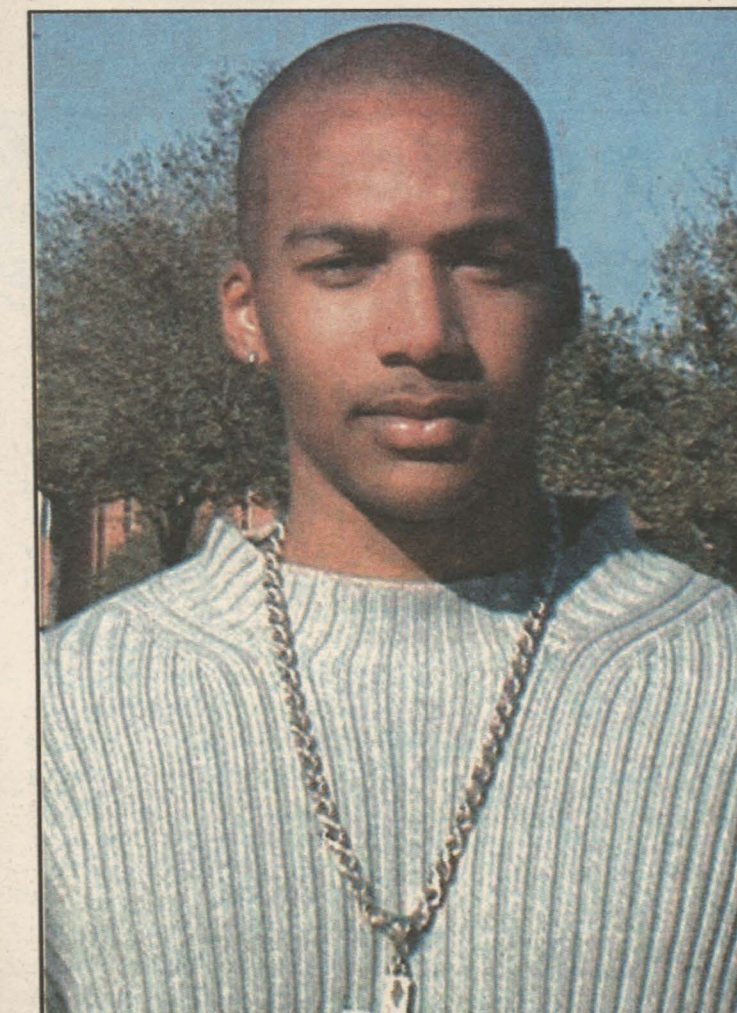
Classification: Junior

Hometown: Baytown, TX

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 160lbs

Claim to Fame: Bringing the house down on defense



Name: Derek Flora #21

Classification: Junior

Hometown: Houston, TX

Height: 6'4"

Weight: 180lbs

Claim to Fame: Taking PV defense to another level.

Winfrey donates \$5 million to Morehouse College

Atlanta AP



courtesy of google images

Talk show host Oprah Winfrey will donate \$5 million to Morehouse College, the school announced Friday. Her pledge Friday came just as the historically black college launched its largest-ever fund-raising campaign, hoping to receive at least \$105 million by 2006.

Winfrey, who had previously donated \$1 million to Morehouse, is the college's top donor thus far.

President Walter Massey said Morehouse, a private all-male college in Atlanta, will use the money to offer more scholarships, upgrade the campus and ultimately make it more competitive with top colleges.

"Our mantra has been that we want to be considered among the finest liberal arts colleges in the country while still remaining the college of choice for African-American men," Massey said. "That's what we've been working toward."

The college already has begun construction on a multimillion dollar leadership center slated for completion in 2004. Plans also are under way for a performing arts center.

Historically black colleges have had difficulties in raising money, especially in the last two years — more so than at other private schools. Despite the struggle, Massey remain optimistic.

"We do need money," he said. "But asking for it isn't a burden."

Forbidden web site restored at Hampton Univeristy

By Erin L. Hill
Black College Wire

It's one of the largest black Web sites on the Internet, but Hampton University students were prohibited from accessing it.

BlackPlanet.com is an online community where registered members can design home pages with pictures, writing, music and wallpaper.

However, when students' pictures were swiped from their personal home pages and remarks superimposed on them, Hampton University installed a firewall to prevent the Hampton community from accessing the site from campus computers.

That access was recently restored.

Jaaye Person-Lynn, a junior political science major from Inglewood, Calif., was one of the students targeted in what is known around the Hampton campus as "The BlackPlanet Incident."

Person-Lynn recalled that one of the Web pages said he looked like "a reject from a Lil' Bow Wow video" because he rode a scooter, and said he

should get his hair braided more often.

However, he disagreed with having a firewall block the site.

"It really didn't say anything too negative about me, so I wasn't upset at all," Person-Lynn said. "It's like they [administration] are trying to censor the students. It's the Internet, and isn't bad; a couple of people just used it for a bad act. It's not fair to punish thousands."

Roshawnda Walker, a sophomore computer science major from Gary, Ind., also disagreed with the firewall.

"There are some Web sites that are accessible that should have been blocked way before BlackPlanet," Walker said.

Employees in the Academic Technology Mall of the Harvey Library were not available for comment, but were unaware that students could access the site again until the student newspaper, The Hampton Script, brought it to their attention.

According to Vicomsoft, Ltd., a specialist in Internet connectivity and firewall software, organiza-

tions should have a strict security program that includes firewall protection.

Of course, Hampton students found a way to bypass the firewall simply by having individual modems dial in and out of the network.

Those with a private Internet service such as America Online were able to access BlackPlanet.com.

Community Connect, Inc. launched BlackPlanet.com in September 1999. In just 11 weeks, the site said it registered more than 60,000 members and had more than a million daily page views.

As of April 2002, BlackPlanet claimed more than 5.3 million registered members.

Community Connect is known for developing and

Bell brings new ideas to College of Business

By Nikki Easter
Panther Staff

Dr. Reginald Bell, a new addition to the faculty of the College of Business, arrived at Prairie View A&M University last September from Purdue University.

He says "PVAMU already feels like home." Bell expressed his thoughts to the Panther on what he plans to bring to this University. "There are certain things taught here that can not be taught at a homogenous University. I want to teach modeling. You dress a particular way for class, because certain things can be learned through osmosis," says Bell.

According to Bell, who teaches of business communications, he plans "to teach business majors to translate business jargon into language appropriate for a specific audience in order to achieve a communicative purpose through speaking and writing."

In addition to these classroom objectives, Bell says he brings a "plethora of [teaching] methods to the classroom to make certain his assessments are accurate." "I never do anything that I can't defend scientifically," he says. Bell adds that he avoids a passive learning style of teaching by encouraging his students to use more than one

of their senses at a time. Bell received a bachelor's degree in English, with a minor in theater, and a master's degree in management from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1991.

He obtained a Ph.D. in practical arts and vocational technical education with an emphasis in business education from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1997. In addition to teaching, Bell acted as director of customer care for an Internet service provider and was responsible for a JTPA grant awarded to Central High School in Missouri.

Fighting still reigns

Students worry about violence on campus

Kory Briggs
Panther Staff

Once upon a time, going to college meant higher education, meeting new people, growing mentally and achieving the ultimate goal of a career.

Maybe some students come to Prairie View A&M University for the wrong reasons.

Maybe some students still believe in the myth of PV being a party school.

The point of the matter is, those few 10% are causing a major problem for the entire university.

Picture a Saturday night, the night of a huge Baby Dome party. It's a dreaded five dollars to get in.

The females are in mouth-watering outfits and the guys are drenched in all the cologne money can buy.

A few hours into one rowdy song, the whole party goes out of control. One scuffle causes other scuffles like human dominoes.

The party is eventually stopped, the innocent party goer has lost five dollars and someone ends up hurt.

Why does it happen? Who starts fights? What are some solutions? These are the questions.

Fighting is getting to be a problem on this campus.

Sophomore mechanical engineer major Jason Lemons stated, "The main fights are fraternities and Houston and Dallas students." It is true that at many parties, fraternities often get out of hand overstepping and for many years Houston and Dallas have had a huge rivalry.

There have been countless incidents of several young men fighting one another outside of parties, inside parties and elsewhere.

In a survey of about 10 students, all said they feel that fighting is worthless.

They say the rivalry between Houston and Dallas has got to stop.

No one must forget the huge rivalry two years ago when

Bloods and Crips were allegedly brought back and illegal weapons were found in apartment buildings in Houston.

The fighting often leads to more serious types of violence. As with the fraternities, although they are founded on service and community they often have an arrogant and easily-angered mentality.

Possibly, it's loyalty, perhaps it's showing allegiance, or perhaps it's just causing negative attitudes about fraternities.

According to sophomore business major Archie Nettles, "A solution should be to have more police at parties, crack down on alcohol on campus, and banning fight songs."

In actuality, even with those things done, police cannot read minds and no one really knows when a fight can occur. That makes things beyond difficult.

This is a calling for all students to do their part in stopping these fights. After all, can't we all just get along?

health hints

Bulimia Nervosa

Bulimia Nervosa is a serious, potentially life-threatening eating disorder characterized by a cycle of bingeing and purging.

Bulimia has three primary symptoms:

- * Eating large quantities of food in short periods of time, often secretly, without regard to feelings of "hunger" or "fullness," and to the point of feeling "out of control" while eating.
- * Following these "binges" with some form of purging or compensatory behavior to make up for the excessive calories taken in: self-induced vomiting, laxative or diuretic abuse, fasting, and/or obsessive or compulsive exercise.
- * Extreme concern with body weight and shape.

Health Consequences of Bulimia:

- * Electrolyte imbalances that can lead to irregular heartbeats and possibly heart failure and death. Electrolyte imbalance is caused by dehydration and loss of potassium and sodium from the body as a result of purging behaviors.
- * Potential for gastric rupture during periods of bingeing. Inflammation and possible rupture of the esophagus from frequent vomiting.
- * Tooth decay and staining from stomach acids released during frequent vomiting.
- * Chronic irregular bowel movements and constipation as a result of laxative abuse.
- * Peptic ulcers and pancreatitis.

Source: www.nationaleatingdisorders.org

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The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

University College thanks all of our Faculty Advisement Coordinators For their continuing support!!!

12 days until Mid-terms

- 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 may not early register!!

UC Activities:

Feb. 20: The UC Transitional Advisors are holding a mandatory briefing for all probationary students at 4:00 PM in room A-103 of the New Science Building.

Feb. 25 "A 21st Century Challenge to Black America," by Mr. Roland S. Martin, author of Speak Brother: A Black Man's View of America, 7:00 PM, All Faiths Chapel Bldg 35 is hosting a UC African American Heritage Quiz Bowl for info contact Mr. Bland at 4449.

Month of Feb. UC is sponsoring a Black History Month Talent Show (watch this space for details!)

Internet chatrooms become a quick way to arrange risky sex

By Q. Harey
AP Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Chat rooms on gay Web sites are becoming a common place for arranging risky sexual encounters, a survey found, as experts worry about a possible upswing in HIV infections.

Research released Tuesday suggests that for some, the Internet serves the same hazardous purpose as gay bathhouses did in the early 1980s, when the AIDS virus first spread rampantly among homosexual men.

"The Internet is a new venue associated with high-risk sex," said Sabina Hirshfield. "It is a quick and easy way to meet partners."

The AIDS epidemic has leveled off in the United States over the past decade. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 40,000 new HIV infections occur annually. Nevertheless, a variety of new data raise concern that AIDS may once again be increasing.

The report by Hirshfield and colleagues from the Medical and Health Research Association of New York City was among several on the spread of AIDS presented at the 10th Conference on Retroviruses in Boston.

Her report was based on online surveys filled out by nearly 3,000 men using the Web site gay.com, which describes itself as "the largest gay media property in the world." They were mostly white, college-educated men from all over the United States, and half were under 30.

The survey found that 84 percent said they met sex partners online, and about two-thirds had recently had anal sex without condoms. About one-quarter of the men said they had had more than 100 sex partners during their lives.

While federal officials are not convinced that HIV is spreading more rampantly these days, several clues

suggest it may be. The CDC's Dr. Ronald Valdiserri noted that in 2001, for the first time in eight years, the number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases rose a slight 1 percent.

Furthermore, data gathered from 25 states found the number of newly diagnosed HIV infections increased 8 percent between 1999 and 2001.

"We are concerned, and we are looking very carefully at these trends for what they might do in the future," he said. Possible reasons cited by experts for an increase include the much higher number of Americans living with AIDS as a result of lifesaving medicines, fading memories of the ravages of the disease in earlier years and a sense that HIV can be readily treated.

One of the CDC's goals is to make sure that HIV-infected people know they have the virus so they will get treatment and be careful not pass it on to others.

The CDC estimates

that one-third of the 900,000 people living with HIV know of their infections. However, new data from Baltimore suggest that the percentage who know their status is growing. Doctors at Johns Hopkins University's emergency department routinely offer HIV testing to patients. Charlamaine Henson said the number unaware of their infections dropped from 63 percent in 1988 to 26 percent in 2000 and 19 percent in 2001.

Another study from the University of North Carolina found that newly released prisoners may be especially likely to spread HIV through risky sex.

Dr. David Wohl and colleagues surveyed 86 HIV-infected men and women and found that one-quarter had sex without condoms with their regular partners within a month of their release. Half of these people believed that their partners did not have the virus.

"Prisons in many

ways facilitate the transmission of HIV," Wohl said. "Our experience is that when people get out of prison, there are two things they want to do, and one of them is get a Big Mac."

Much research suggests that people are most likely to pass the virus on to others soon after they catch it, since their virus levels are especially high then. A study from Uganda found that nearly half of HIV transmission between heterosexual couples occurs during the first five months after one partner gets the virus.

Dr. Maria Wawer reported that among these African couples, who did not use condoms, there was an 8-in-1,000 chances of passing on the virus with each sex act during those first five months after infection.

The risk then dropped to 1 in 1,000 but climbed again to 5 in 1,000 in the 15 months before the infected person died of AIDS.

Ousted 'Idol' contestant, a Howard student, says Fox knew her past

By Jozen Cummings
Black College Wire

Franchelle "Frenchie" Davis, kicked off Fox television's "American Idol 2" for past involvement with an adult Web site, says the producers of the series were told about her past in November, before she made the finals.

Before the Howard University senior was pulled from the show Feb. 11, Davis' voice and personality were seen as the right combination to be the next "American idol." "I was open with the information from the very beginning," Davis told the Howard University

newspaper, The Hilltop. "There was no outside pressure for me to tell them, and my involvement with the Web site didn't even show up in the background check they did on all of the contestants."

Producers of "American Idol 2" have said they maintain the right to disqualify a contestant any time. Davis, 23, said the producers told her to prepare herself in the event that her past was leaked to the news media, but that she was never told it would result in her disqualification. The decision to remove Davis from the show was made after her involvement with the Web site

was made public.

"American Idol 2" executive producer Nigel Lythgoe broke the news to Davis at a meeting that took place about the same time Fox was broadcasting the Feb. 11 program. "I am very disappointed in the show," said Davis, a Los Angeles native. "Any woman who could endure what I have endured, and still hold her head high and fight to make something of herself, is worthy of being called an idol."

The site, whose name Davis did not want to reveal, has been said to contain sexually explicit material and features underage girls. Davis

claimed her involvement with the site was solely for money to continue her education. "I was 18 years old at the time and 3,000 miles away from home," Davis said. "But I simply refused to go back home without a college degree and at the time it seemed like the best way to earn the money I needed to continue my education. Everyone knows why I did it."

Davis also said the site was under different ownership then, and denied allegations that the site contained child pornography. "I just want people to know the site was not a child pornography site when I worked there," Davis said.

"And I have never been involved in any way with the abuse of children, which is what child pornography is." With Davis' sudden disqualification, people across the country have spoken out in her defense.

Numerous message boards and a Web site, www.savefrenchie.com, are among fans' efforts to bring Davis back. By Feb. 16, more than 35,000 fans had signed the online petition <http://www.petitiononline.com/FRENCHIE/petition.html>, USA Today reported. The company that gives the winner of the show a

See Idol page 11

Is there a future in fashion's past?

AP Writer
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Is there a future in fashion's past?

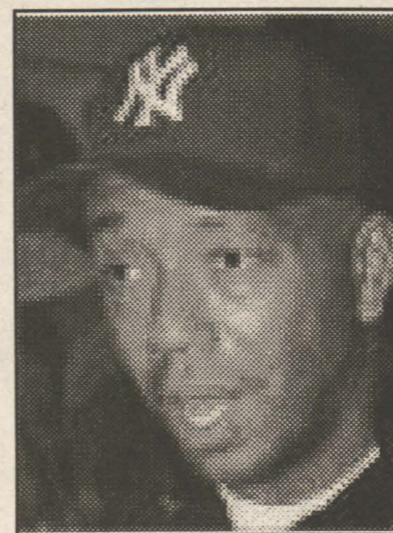
That's the question Time magazine put to Valentino and Russell Simmons for a new commemorative publication, "Time Style & Design," being distributed to select subscribers of Time and InStyle and at New York Fashion Week this week.

Valentino, the designer best known for his glamorous gowns, says the future is built on lessons of the past. "You don't become an important designer without

study and training. You cannot be a designer without

knowing how to cut a dress. The only way you learn these things is by studying the work of those who worked before you," Valentino said.

But Simmons, founder of Phat Farm clothing and Def Jam Records, warns that focusing on history might leave new opportunities that integrate music, fashion and lifestyle unnoticed. "Our view is that the future is now. If you miss what is happening today in urban communities across the nation and throughout the globe, then you will surely miss a 'phat' opportunity."



Pictured: Hip Hop Mogul Russell Simmons
Picture by: Google Images

Idol from Page 10

recording contract, 19 Entertainment, has said it will "endeavor to do all in its power to help Frenchie further her music career."

But for people like Kara Sax, a Howard University senior marketing major and Davis' best friend of five years, those words aren't enough. "They need to reinstate her," Sax said. "The only way you can support someone and protect someone is by following through with what you said, and not making exceptions."

Davis' case has also drawn criticism after comparison with that of last year's 'Idol' contestant Nikki McKibbin, who had been a stripper and was not disqualified. Davis said she did not want to comment on why the two cases were treated differently. "All I know is I believe I could have won and I also believe someone else thought that too, and that's why it happened," Davis said.

The controversy surrounding Davis has fueled offers from recording companies, and she says she is still looking over all of them. In the meantime, she said she has two definite goals. "I'm definitely planning on coming back to Howard in the fall to get my degree," she said. "But during my free time now I'm going to be studying for the LSAT which I'll take in June."

As for her fans, they have gone to great lengths to support Davis. Cornell Williamson, president of the Howard University Student Association, said the student association might protest in some way if it got word that that would be OK with Davis. "I'm not going to discourage anyone from supporting me in any way," Davis said. "The fans of the show have all the power because they choose who the next 'American Idol' is, and they can make me a star anyway. Their anger helps me vent."

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2. Is the weather playing tricks on us or what?
3. Shouldn't William's Chicken have been named Timmy Chan's?
4. Why do the women in Alumni curse at people?
5. Why are the P.V. police kicking people's doors in?
6. Did they all of a sudden become a S.W.A.T. team?
7. What is with all the girls with colored hair?
8. Have they joined the Rainbow Coalition?
9. Who is the girl who fell off the horse in Phases 1 & 2?
10. Who is the 43 year old freshman living in the Village?
11. And why are some freshmen older than their C.A.'s?
12. Who is going to Greek Olympiad?
13. Does that mean that you won't be at the PV vs. MSVS basketball game?
14. Why is the food in Alumni so greasy?
15. Where do they get their recipes?
16. Who in Financial Aid stole the door prizes that the representative from Chase Manhattan bank brought for students?
17. Can you be a cowboy with gold fronts?
18. Which Zeta tried to start a fight with another girl because she was too scared of the Deltas?
19. Does the near brawl between the Zetas and Deltas prove that the AKAs have more class?
20. What do you think?

This is for entertainment only. The questions submitted are not necessarily the views of The Panther. Want to tell us what you think? Please bring your comments and questions to Rm. 105 Harrington Science or e-mail panther@pvamu.edu. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther

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