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Panther- February 2003 - Vol. LXXX, NO.16

Prairie View A&M University

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Prairie View A&M University. (2003). Panther- February 2003 - Vol. LXXX, NO.16., *Vol. LXXX, NO.16*
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THE PANTHER

panther@pvamu.edu · Volume 80, Issue 16 · February 05, 2003

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Inside
this week



Students share their thoughts on the Columbia Shuttle disaster.

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Panthers basketball team holds down an undefeated conference record on the home court.

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Prairie View alumna is reaching for the stars.

Page 10

BLACK History Hotlist

The office of special programs in the Division for Student Enrollment Services has issued the following advisory for celebrating Black History this month:

Wednesdays: African Attire Day

Show your proud heritage each Wednesday by wearing African attire.

Black History Month Ribbons and Wristbands

Celebrate by wearing a ribbon or wristband each day. Pick up your Black History Month ribbon or wristband at the counter in the Admissions Office, Registrar's Office, or any of the locations designated by the Black History Month banners.

Feb. 5: 45th Annual Ministers' Conference

Theme: "Today's Church, Tomorrow's Society, Facing New Theological Perspectives." Conference Speakers: Dr. E. Earl McCloud, Jr., First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Atlanta, Georgia; Dr. Jerry W. Macklin, Glad Tidings Church of God in Christ, Haywood, California; Dr. E. Thurman Walker, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, and many others. Opening sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. in Hobart Taylor.

\$26 million MSC nears completion

By Stephanie Fantop
Panther Staff

The wait is almost over. The Memorial Student Center (MSC) is expected to be completed no later than July. This means students will be able to take advantage of its many amenities for the fall semester. Prairie View's administration planned the project five years before it actually went under construction in 2001.

Mr. Silas Collins, director of student center operations, said the new MSC cost \$26 million to construct. "The funding for the project came from three different sources: Prairie View students, the state, and Sodexo, a catering and management service company," Collins said.

The center, located di-
See MSC page 5



Builders are putting finishing touches on the magnificent Memorial Student Center.

University to trim budget by 7 percent

Move comes in the wake of state's revenue shortfall

By Candice Grizzell
Panther Staff

With the Texas state government's recent request that state agencies reduce their budget by seven percent, Prairie View A&M University is currently developing ways to help cut the university's budget.

Interim President Willie A. Tempton addressed the issue in an interview with *The Panther*. He said that the Texas legislature might have overestimated the state's revenue, and fallen short as a result.

According to Tempton, "The total budget

for the university is about \$140 million. That includes the general revenue from the state, federal grants, such as student financial aid, research grants, auxiliary enterprises, dining hall operations and athletics."

The general revenue from the state is \$49 million, which, Tempton said, is about 30 percent of the university's budget.

"That's the part of the money that we're looking at," said Tempton. "In that \$49 million, there is \$12 million worth of what we call priority fund money. If that money is exempt, then we're looking at

\$37 million of funding that we're going to have to cut by 7 percent."

According to Tempton, "The university is trying to figure out ways to absorb a \$3 million decrease in funding this year in the general revenue without having to let people go. The \$3 million will be cut from that portion of the state revenue, which was \$49 million, and we're going to take seven percent from that."

Tempton noted that the university would encounter some changes within the next year because of the budget problems.

"Those of us who are here and currently hired will probably teach larger classes and work longer hours in order to free up the money to absorb the loss in revenue," said Tempton. "Any unfilled faculty positions and staff positions, primarily, will not be filled. There is money tied to each one of those positions and we will give that money back to the state as a part of the debt."

Tempton said the university will try to generate some additional savings from utilities by adjusting the days

See Budget page 5

•State• •National• •World•

PV's Seven Day Forecast

Wed Feb 05 PM Showers
56°/48°

Thu Feb 06 Showers
53°/37°

Fri Feb 07 Light Rain
46°/32°

Sat Feb 08 Light Rain / Sleet
38°/35°

Sun Feb 09 Mostly Cloudy
54°/33°

Mon Feb 10 Partly Cloudy
54°/38°

Tue Feb 11 Mostly Cloudy
61°/43°

courtesy of www.weather.com

Ex-school board president sentenced for embezzlement

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - Former state school board President J.D. Morris was sentenced Monday to 18 months in federal prison for embezzling more than \$100,000 from the Clay County Bank.

Morris, 67, resigned from the school board in October after the embezzlement allegations were revealed. He pleaded guilty in November to one count of bank embezzlement.

U.S. District Judge Charles H. Haden II gave Morris the minimum sentence under federal guidelines. Morris also must serve four years of supervised release after completing his sentence.

Glendale pilot to be first black man to fly around world

PHOENIX (AP) - A Glendale pilot hopes to make history by becoming the first black man to fly around the world in a single-engine plane, providing he can get the necessary financial backing.

Lee Owens, a 54-year-old Air Force veteran, wants to make the trip in three-quarter-size P-51 Mustang. It's the World War II fighter used by the Tuskegee Airmen.

Owens hopes to make the trip this summer to honor the Tuskegee Airmen, marking this year's 100th anniversary of flight and encourage minority youths to pursue careers in the air.

India, Uzbekistan sign agreement to fight terrorism

NEW DELHI, India (AP) - India and Uzbekistan have signed an agreement to jointly fight international terrorism, mainly by sharing intelligence and cracking down on the narcotics trade.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov and his Indian counterpart, Yashwant Sinha, set up a joint working group that will meet at least once a year, Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters.

While India is fighting insurgencies in the disputed Himalayan province of Kashmir and in its remote northeastern states, the Uzbek government is facing a strong challenge from radical opposition Islamic groups.

India already has signed similar security agreements with two other Central Asian countries, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

3 Americans nabbed in Spain for selling drugs on the Internet

MADRID, Spain (AP) - Police in southern Spain arrested three Americans suspected of belonging to an international ring that sold the designer drug Ecstasy over the Internet.

The three allegedly operated out of Atlanta, Georgia, by having the drug sent from Europe to Canada and then on to Atlanta, according to the national news agency Efe.

The three reportedly fled Georgia after being charged with drug trafficking, and Interpol issued arrest warrants for two of

"In Memory of Our Heroes"



Mission specialists Kalpana Chawla and Laurel Clark, both 41, are two of the seven crew members who died Saturday on the space shuttle, Columbia. The shuttle broke up as it was returning to Earth. Crews are still looking for debris from the shuttle in parts of north Texas and surrounding areas.

them.

The names of the three suspects were not given, but police said one was from Georgia, another from Louisiana and the third was Russian-born with U.S. citizenship.

They will now go before the National Court in Madrid which handles extradition cases, although police continue to investigate their activities in Spain.

Vandals attack Holocaust memorial in Greece

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP) - Greek Jewish groups on Monday condemned a weekend attack by vandals on a Holocaust memorial in this northern Greek city.

Two swastikas were spray-painted on the monument near the center of Thessaloniki.

Greece's Holocaust monument was unveiled in 1997 to honor Jews killed in Nazi concentration camps during World War II, in which Greece's 80,000-strong Jewish community was reduced to 5,000. The memorial has been vandalized several times.

Students fall sick after drinking school milk

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Almost 50 students, most of them of kindergarten age, fell sick Monday after drinking milk provided by their government-run schools, a local official said.

Thirty kindergarten students started vomiting a few minutes after they drank milk during a class break at Wat Sai Noi School in Nonthaburi province, local district chief Somsak Chittrakul said.

The school, which has 200 students, immediately stopped distributing milk to its other pupils.

Shortly afterward, another 17 elementary school students suffered similar symptoms at the Wat Klong Taklai School in the same district prompting him to stop milk distribution at a third school. None of the children required hospitalization.

Food poisoning is common in rural Thailand, but rare in urban areas, which have better health and food storage facilities.

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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Know Your Roles, Ladies and Gentlemen

By Jason Hutchings
Black College Wire/ Famuan(FAMU)

You hear the thudding of a trunk attempting to stay shut against the heavy vibrations underneath. You see brightly colored patches of boxer shorts underneath pants slipping further than they should in the name of fashion. You hear the calls of, "Hey, girl!"

Any zoologist can tell you these are all parts of the mating ritual of the male at Florida A&M University. However, the question must be asked: When did these behaviors become acceptable and deserving of a positive response? It's life imitating art.

If you can recall one of the many rap videos you have seen recently, then the scenario of a man pulling up in a shiny new car with music blaring and women flocking to him is not hard to comprehend. Is this really the model for men at FAMU to catch the attention of the women on campus? The answer is a resounding yes.

It seriously bothers me that we buy into the hype, that we are supposed to imitate the social cues created in the minds of people who continually degrade women and regard them as mere sexual objects. We should turn a deaf ear and blind eye to the igno-

ramuses who objectify and dehumanize women.

But men should not be held solely responsible for this behavior. Women should own up to their role in this desecration of social etiquette. Yes, there is a certain role that women are expected to play when approached.

However, ladies, if you are accosted in an unbecoming manner, please do not respond by flocking or flirting in return. You have to let men know that you will not respond to their cheapened attempts to get your attention, like some dog awaiting a treat.

Of course, all students are not guilty of this behavior. However, there are enough who are. At times, I believe I am caught in a second-rate video in heavy rotation on BET. If we are supposed to be here to get an education, we should behave in an educated manner in all aspects of our lives, not on a few, selected occasions. Seriously, is it that difficult to approach someone in a respectable manner - one that isn't degrading to yourself or others?

Powell without Picasso

By Maureen Dowd
New York Times

When Colin Powell goes to the United Nations today to make his case for war with Saddam, the U.N. plans to throw a blue cover over Picasso's antiwar masterpiece, "Guernica." Too much of a mixed message, diplomats say. As final preparations for the secretary's presentation were being made last night, a U.N. spokesman explained, "Tomorrow it will be covered and we will put the Security Council flags in front of it."

Mr. Powell can't very well seduce the world into bombing Iraq surrounded on camera by shrieking and mutilated women, men, children, bulls and horses. Reporters and cameras will stake out the secretary of state at the entrance of the U.N. Security Council, where the tapestry reproduction of "Guernica," contributed by Nelson Rockefeller, hangs.

The U.N. began cover-

ing the tapestry last week after getting nervous that Hans Blix's head would end up on TV next to a screaming horse head. (Maybe the U.N. was inspired by John Ashcroft's throwing a blue cover over the "Spirit of Justice" statue last year, after her naked marble breast hovered over his head during a televised terrorism briefing.)

Nelson Rockefeller himself started the tradition of covering up art donated by Nelson Rockefeller when he sandblasted Diego Rivera's mural in the RCA Building in 1933 because it included a portrait of Lenin. (Rivera later took his revenge, reproducing the mural for display in Mexico City, but adding to it a portrait of John D. Rockefeller Jr. drinking a martini with a group of "painted ladies.") There has been too much sandblasting in Washington lately. After leading the charge for months that there were ties between Iraq

and Al Qaeda, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld chastised the media yesterday for expecting dramatic, explicit evidence from Mr. Powell.

"The fixation on a smoking gun is fascinating to me," he said impatiently, adding: "You all . . . have been watching 'L.A. Law' or something too much." The administration's argument for war has shifted in a dizzying Cubist cascade over the last months. Last summer, Bush officials warned that Saddam was close to building nuclear bombs. Now, with intelligence on aluminum tubes, once deemed proof of an Iraqi nuclear program, in dispute, the administration's emphasis has tacked back to germ and chemical weapons. With no proof that Saddam has given weapons to terrorists, another once-crucial part of the case for going to war, Mr. Rumsfeld and others now frame their casus belli prospectively: that we must get rid of Saddam

because he will soon become the gulf's leading weapons supplier to terrorists.

Secretary Powell was huddling on the evidence in New York yesterday with C.I.A. director George Tenet. Mr. Tenet was there to make sure nothing too sensitive was revealed at the U.N., but mainly to lend credibility to Mr. Powell's brief, since there have been many reports that the intelligence agency has been skeptical about some of the Pentagon and White House claims on Iraq. It was Mr. Tenet who warned Congress in a letter last fall that there was only one circumstance in which the U.S. need worry about Iraq sharing weapons with terrorists: if Washington attacked Saddam.

When the evidence is not black and white, the president must persuade everyone. There is no red and blue. There is just red, white and blue.

This is to inform our readers that neither The Panther nor the Office of Student Publications is affiliated with the Inland Project, Inc., an organization for which an advertisement was placed in the Jan. 29 edition of The Panther.

Notice

Tenesia S. Mathews
Editor-in-Chief

Notice

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Volunteers provide support

Joel Anderson
Associated Press Writer

HEMPHILL, Texas (AP) — Barbara Laday took time off from her job as a social worker to help hand out supplies at a VFW hall that was converted into a makeshift cafeteria for weary shuttle-debris searchers.

Across East Texas, ordinary citizens put aside daily tasks to play a role, even if only a small one, in helping find debris from the disintegration of space shuttle Columbia.

Andi Smith, a volunteer with Lumberton emergency management services, emerged with other searchers from the piney thicket along a highway outside Hemphill.

Smith wasn't feeling well when the day began, and she said she experienced breathing difficulty trekking through the dense woods.

Mike Dawson, a U.S. Forest Service employee also on a search team, said the process of looking for debris was very slow. Morning rain made the conditions slippery.

"We've only covered 1 to 2 percent of the whole area we wanted to look at. That's a drop in the bucket," Dawson said.

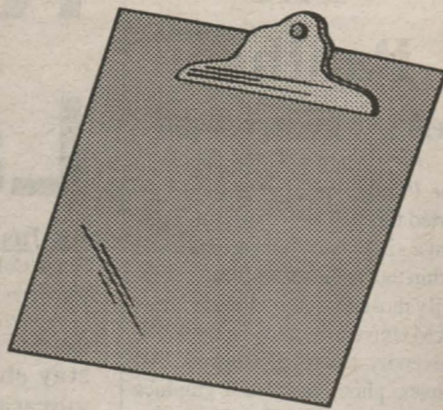
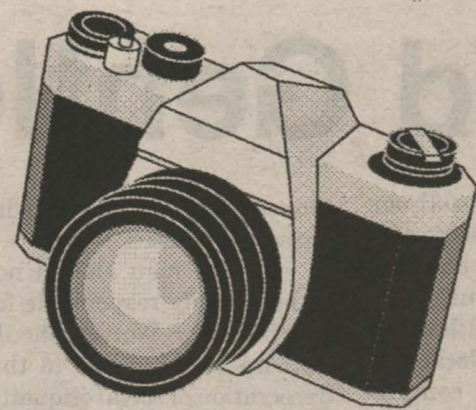
John Starr owns a funeral home in Hemphill that has helped in the recovery of body parts. He said he tried not to think immediately about the implications of his work.

"Right now there are people to be taken care of," Starr said. "If we're going to be shook up, we have to do that later."

Laday, the Salvation Army worker who volunteered to help feed and comfort searchers at a Veterans of Foreign Wars hall, said she loved helping out.

"You see these guys coming out of the woods and they're tired, and you know they are going to wear down," she said. "It just feels good knowing you can help them."

PURPLE & GOLD POLL



What are your thoughts on the Columbia shuttle disaster?

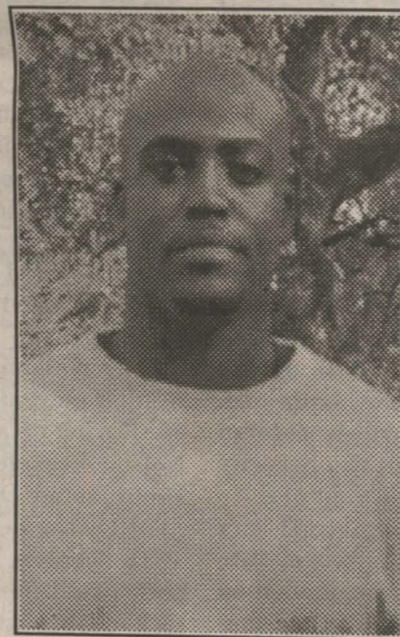


Priest J. Gordon
Senior

"An an engineering major I really feel bad because it was some engineer's fault. But better planning in the future could prevent these tragedies."

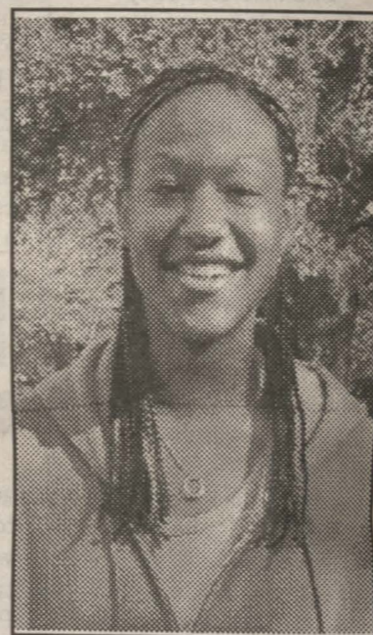


Traci Jones
Senior
"I am praying for all the families and friends of the victims."



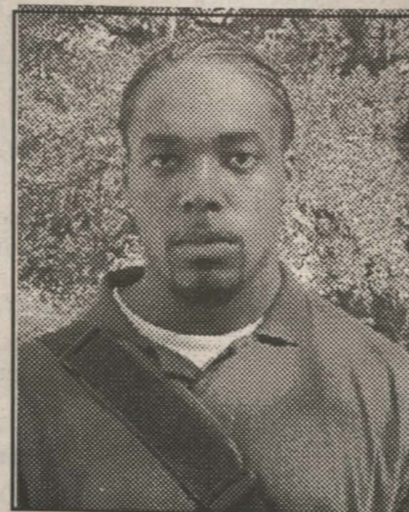
Rashan Wilson
Sophomore

"It's a tragic event, but it's something NASA can build on. That shuttle shouldn't have been in the air, it was the oldest one out there."



Monique Guillory
Freshman

"I feel bad because they died a tragic death and their kids have to go through life without their parents."



Charles Dorsey
Sophomore
"It's messed up, but life goes on, God makes no mistakes, and all things happen for a reason."

Jesse Jackson starts tour for civil rights

By: Jeffrey Collins
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The Rev. Jesse Jackson launched a Southern speaking tour Monday, urging an audience at a historically black college not to be satisfied with the gains made so far in the civil rights movement. "We've gone from degradation to decency, but now it's time to go from decency to equality," Jackson told an audience of more than 1,000 at Benedict College.

Jackson is touring South Carolina this week, and plans to make the rounds of other Southern states soon. It's some of the highest-profile work for the civil rights leader since early 2001, when the finances of his Chicago-based Rainbow/PUSH Coalition were investigated and a lawsuit erupted over child-support payments for an out-of-wedlock daughter.

Jackson wants to hit small towns more than urban areas because he says that's where his message of "poverty, prisons, predators and peace" is needed the most.

Events such as November's elections tilting toward Republicans and the Bush's administration stance against an affirmative action program at the University of Michigan should spur students into action, Jackson said.

"All of our gains are under attack," he said.

Hobbled by a broken ankle he suffered last week, Jackson started and ended his speech with a pep talk telling students they can now do anything they want because of strides made by their parents and grandparents in the last 40 years.

He also told the students that when they get jobs and successful careers, "the blessed must not forget the distressed."

Jackson's interest in the state was piqued earlier this month when he came back to his hometown in an unsuccessful attempt to get the Greenville County Council to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a county holiday.

He also weighed into a simmering dispute: Jackson said leaving the Confederate flag on South Carolina's Statehouse grounds — it was taken off the Statehouse itself after a high-profile dispute — confuses him because "usually losers put away their public displays."

"They didn't have the Confederate flag on the shuttle," Jackson said, referring to the space shuttle Columbia that disintegrated this weekend in the skies above Texas. "They don't have the Confederate flag in Kuwait either, where our soldiers are waiting to invade Iraq."

Budget from page 1

the campus is open to avoid eliminating people from their positions. The university will also have to delay some planned projects and programs.

According to Tempton, "The university was getting ready to take on a plan to upgrade computers in all the faculty and staff offices. There are some repairs that aren't too critical but need to be done."

Tempton noted, "The only entities we don't think will be affected are those being funded by the priority funds." This will include plans for the doctorate programs in electrical engineering and educational leadership. Tempton said the programs are priority fund projects, and at this point, should not be impacted.

"Overall, this issue is an interesting challenge for the university and we'll come out of this with a leaner and more efficient operation," Tempton said.

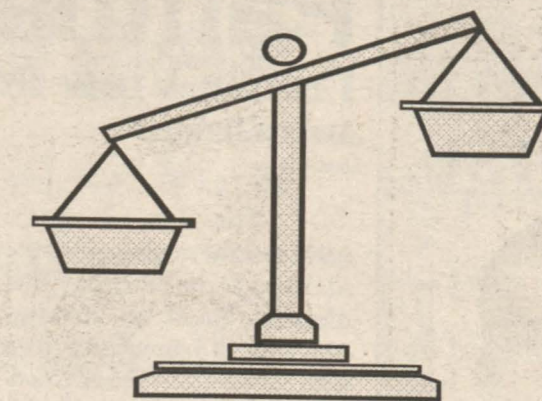
MSC from page 1

rectly across from the Billy Nicks Field House, consists of three floors. On the first floor students will find the new Alumni Hall, bookstore, game room, and other areas in which to socialize. The original Alumni Hall will be torn down and a new building will be built for educational purposes.

The second floor is equipped with a state of the art auditorium and ballroom.

The third floor is where you can find many of the offices that are now scattered around campus, such as, financial aid, admissions, and the registers office. The student government office, student activities, and even *The Panther* will also be located in this one building.

Dr. Price, interim vice president for student and enrollment services, said, "The administrative staff is pleased to be getting something for the students. We have not had a student center of this quality. The students need and deserve this kind of atmosphere; it's about students and their happiness. This is their facility."



SGA Speaks Out

Wednesday, Feb. 5:
Committee Chairman Meeting
Harrington Science, Rm.102
7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb.6:
Senate Meeting
Administration Auditorium
5:30 p.m.
VP of Student Services and Enrollment Meeting
Harrington Science, Rm. 102
5:30 p.m.

Monday, February 7:
E-Board Meeting
Harrington Science Rm. 102
7 p.m.
Self-Awareness Week
"Get in Touch With Yourself"
Location: TBA
7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 11:
Sophomore Class Meeting
Library, Special Events Room 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 12:
Battle of the Sexes: Secrets Behind the Suit and the Dress
New Science Building, Rm. A101
6:30
Committee Chairmen Meeting
Harrington Science, Rm. 102
4 p.m.

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Panthers hand ASU first loss

Prairie View moves back into a tie for first place after victory

Andrew Roberts
Sports Editor

The Prairie View A&M Panthers played host to Alabama St. on Saturday, and Alabama A&M on Monday. Alabama St. came into town with a unbeaten record in conference play going 7-0 their first seven contest.

P.V. came into the game boasting a 6-1 record with their only defeat coming from Mississippi Valley St. January 25.

After the loss to Mississippi Valley Prairie View found themselves in a spot they didn't want to be, out of first place.

The main question to be answered was how the team would rebound from the setback. As Prairie View has consistently done all season they responded with poise and confidence.

The Panthers are back in a tie for first place with their cross town rival Texas Southern. After coming away with a win on the road against Arkansas-Pine Bluff, and extending their home winning streak to five the Panthers are once again back on top.

A victory for P.V. on Saturday would complete a season sweep of the Tigers' and most of all put them in first place all by themselves.

Coach Francis was quoted as saying "We can expect a tough physical ball game, TSU will be ready to play, and were looking forward to the challenge."

On Monday the Panthers faced the 2-6 Alabama A&M Bulldogs. The Bulldogs started the game off by going on a 9-0 scoring run. Prairie view would regroup and go on a 6-0 run of their own early in the contest.

The Panthers struggled to gain an offensive rhythm in the first half of play. P.V. only managed to shoot 39 percent from the field in the half. Alabama went 15 for 32 shooting 46 percent from the field. P.V. was never able to capture the lead in the first half but a late run allowed them to cut the Bulldogs advantage to one point.

The First half ended with the score Alabama A&M



Photo by: Gitonga M'Mbijewe
Malachi Thurston scores on a lay up against Alabama A&M Monday, on his way to scoring a game high 26 points. Thurston had a double-double grabbing 11 rebounds as well.

37 Prairie View A&M 36.

In the second half the Panthers came out with a new game plan. Whatever adjustments Coach Francis made at the half made a big difference. Prairie View started the second half off in dominate fashion, going on a 16-0 scoring run.

The run gave P.V. a fifteen point lead and the score quickly went from Prairie View being down 37-36 to P.V. leading 52-37. Alabama refused to give up.

The Bulldogs went on a scoring run of their own cutting Prairie Views lead to two points 54-52. Gregory Burks converted on some tough lay ups and Malachi Thurston knocked down a couple of jumpers and with 5:00 minutes remaining the Panthers were holding a four point lead.

Prairie View and Alabama A&M would go on to exchange several baskets. The Panthers big man Roderick Riley stepped up to give Prairie View a much needed lift.

Riley was able to convert on two three point plays late in the game. With 1:30 left the Gregory Burks fouled out of the contest.

Without their second leading scorer at their disposal P.V. relied on their inside game along with there ability to hit free throws to close the game out.

With 1:25 left Kevin Cooper was fouled and sent to the free throw line. Cooper gave the Panthers an eight point lead and P.V. did'nt look back from there.

Prairie Views free throw shooting late in the game was a key to victory. A Malachi Thurston two handed dunk put the exclamation point on what was Prairie Views fifth straight home victory. The Panthers leading scorer was Thurston with 26 points and 11 rebounds.

Gregory Burks shot 7-16 from the field scoring 20 points. Roderick Riley shot 6-12 scoring 15 points and pulling down 9 rebounds.

When asked who he thought should be the MVP for the game Coach Francis stated that he felt like the entire team should get the honors.

Prairie View will be back in action Saturday in Houston, Texas against the TSU Tigers. GO PANTHERS!

College Basketball Showdown

Prairie View A&M vs Texas Southern Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at TSU Basketball Dome

**SWAC SCORES
Lady Panthers 52
Lady Bulldogs 50**

Athletes of the Week



**Name: Prairie View A&M Panthers
Sport: Basketball
Claim to Fame: Prairie View is off to their best start in thirty years. Currently the Panthers are in a two way tie for first place with TSU with an 8-1 SWAC record**

P.V.'s own Fast and the Furious

Panthers track team is gearing up for the 2003 track season

By Steven Kennedy
Sports Writer

The Prairie View A&M men's track team will continue its rich tradition as the 2003 outdoor season begins in March. Although the loss of Lewis Edmonson is big, the Panthers still have a formidable track & field roster led by sprinter Henry Harris, who finished third in the SWAC Track & Field championships last spring in the 400 meters.

Harris was also a key leg on Prairie View's winning 4x400 meter relay that finished first at the SWAC Championships last spring.

Prairie View's men and women track & field teams are nationally recognized for their successes over the years. The men's team has produced some amazing times in the 4x100 meter relay (39.40) with Timothy Cherry, Larry Hamilton,

Lewis Edmonson, and Lewis Turner in 2001 at the NCAA Track and Field Championships.

The time of 39.40 was not only a school record for Prairie View A&M, but also placed them fourth in the 4x100 meter relay at the NCAA Track & Field Championships in 2001.

The men's team also posted an outstanding time of (3:02.41) in the 4x400 meter relay in 1998, another school record that still stands. The Panthers will be led by Hoover J. Wright, head men's track and field coach. Coach Wright has been at the helm since 1961. Wright has displayed nothing but coaching excellence over the past 41 years, leading Prairie View A&M to numerous SWAC titles.

Coach Hoover Wright plans to have an even better season than last year, striving to always do better. Although there are high expectations for the 2003 outdoor season, the team will have many new faces, many of whom red-shirted last year.

"I always tell my athletes to always run every race as if it were their last," coach Wright said. "The team is wide open, no one has a guaranteed spot on any relay, and I expect all of my athletes to work hard, no matter if they have a spot or not."

Some of the strong runners from last season were Lewis Edmonson, Larry Hamilton, Henry Harris, and Lewis Turner. Edmonson finished 8th at the NCAA Track and Field Championships in the 110-meter hurdles (13.88) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana,

last spring.

But Edmonson won the 110-meter hurdles, and the 200 meter dash at the SWAC Track and Field Championships. He also posted a personal best (13.56) in the 110-meter hurdles last April, which made him an automatic qualifier for nationals.

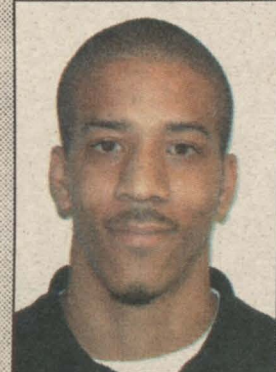
Hamilton was part of the record setting 4x100 meter relay (39.40) in 2001, and is a very consistent runner. Henry Harris is the team's top 400-meter runner, and plays a big role on the 4x400 meter relay. The team has many major meets on its schedule, including T.S.U relays, Prairie View relays, and the Texas relays in Austin. The track team under the instruction of Coach Wright should be able to make a run for another SWAC championship. GOPANTHERS!

Upcoming Sporting events

Lady Panther Basketball
February 8 vs. Texas Southern where: Houston, Tx
time: 5:30 p.m.
February 22 vs. Mississippi Valley State where: Baby Dome
time: 5:30 p.m.

Men's Panther Basketball
February 8 vs. Texas Southern where: Houston, Tx
time: 7:30 p.m.
February 11 vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi where: Baby Dome
time: 7:30 p.m.
Please continue to support Panther Athletics

P.V. prepares to battle TSU



Andrew Roberts
Sports Editor

The Prairie View A&M Panthers and the Texas Southern Tigers are the two hottest teams in the SWAC.

The two teams are currently tied for first place in the conference. With a combined 16-2 record, P.V. and TSU have dominated opposing SWAC teams.

Texas Southern comes into the contest on a seven game winning streak.

The Tigers' last SWAC loss came at the hands of the Panthers January 11. Since losing that game TSU has been blazing hot.

P.V. is currently on a winning streak of their own beating their last three opponents.

Its been quite some time since these two teams have faced each other in a conference game with such a big impact.

The last three meetings between P.V. and TSU have been decided by four points or less.

The last time the two teams met Prairie View was able to come away with a 59-57 victory.

The meeting was a close contest the entire game with neither team being able to gain a large advantage over the other.

The SWAC has two new Powerhouses in mens basketball, both residing in the Houston, Texas area. The last game between P.V. and TSU went down to the wire.

Saturday's game will be for city bragging rights and more importantly first place in SWAC. With so much on the line it's sure to be a classic.

WE'RE READY, GO PANTHERS!

Picking a major: for love or money

By Charlene Carter
Black College Wire

Students must sacrifice in times of economic hardship. For some, it's as simple as giving up a monthly shopping spree. For others, it's giving up the pursuit of dreams for more practical careers.

Given the reduced availability of jobs during economic downturns, students might feel pressured to pursue careers in which they'll be able to find a position. For some, unfortunately, their interests don't always correspond with what's available. Tiffany Williams, a freshman elementary education major at American University in Washington, D.C., said the ever-present need for teachers might create incentives for students to become education majors.

"The teacher loan forgiveness programs would become an extra incentive for students," she said. According to Derek Furukawa, an academic adviser at the University of Maryland-College Park, students can become unhappy with their majors if the choice is based on job availability or because it helps fund their education.

Furukawa assists students at the University's School of Education. "Most often, students come to the School of Education after being unhappy with other majors," Furukawa said. But he also notes that some students become education majors because of the wide availability of jobs after graduation, as well as for the help in repaying student loans.

Some advisers contend that during these times, liberal arts educations are most fitting, as they allow students to explore different areas of knowledge while gaining the skills necessary to perform well in their careers. "Employers in business, nonprofits and government are more often con-

cerned with you as a person, your skills, interests and professional curiosity. What you will see is that there is not a direct correlation between major and first job out of college," states a report by officials at Tufts University, which has campuses in Boston, Grafton, Medford/Somerville, Massachusetts and in Talloires, France.

"The major alone will not determine your success. Graduates in every discipline, from humanities to natural or social science, have obtained well paying jobs in a variety of job industries. Many of the skills employers look for are those that are transferable and useful across every field," the report says.

University advisers note that liberal arts programs offer students a flexibility that other majors don't provide. Trinity College, the sole women's institution in the District of Columbia, is a liberal arts college. "We believe

that a liberal arts education is the best preparation for achieving your professional and personal goals in today's rapidly changing world," Trinity officials said.

Robin Weinstein, a junior liberal arts major at George Washington University, agrees, and said that's part of the reason she chose her major. "I wasn't exactly sure what to major in, but liberal arts lets me explore a little bit of everything," Weinstein said.

Despite students' worries about choosing majors that do not correspond with careers in the job market, career service experts suggest that it is better to consider one's interests, skills and values, rather than employment trends when choosing a college major.

"Studies have shown that within 10 years after

graduation, most people are working in careers that are not directly connected to their undergraduate majors. Just as some students change their minds about their majors, some graduates change their minds about their careers," according to career service representatives at GW.

While some students switch majors for economic incentives, others change in response to current events. The publicity of political scandals has increased student awareness in politics, just as the Enron and WorldCom scandals appear to have surged interest in business majors.

"I always knew I would be a business major, but after the Enron scandal broke my decision was solidified," said Clay Shwery, a finance major at Georgetown University.

Fontenots bring taste of Louisiana to Prairie View

Nikki Easter
Panther Staff

Prairie View native Duewy Fontenot and his wife, Normae Jeanae, opened the doors of Fontenot's Place on University Drive adding a "taste of Louisiana" to Prairie View.

The couple says Fontenot's Place specializes in Cajun cuisine with "student friendly" prices. Entrees such as boudain, fried catfish, red beans and rice, gumbo, and a wide variety of side order vegetables "bring a new home-cooked flavor to Prairie View because the food is cooked fresh when you order it," says Mrs. Fontenot.

The service is another "taste of Louisiana" says junior biology major Stacy Lloyd of her experience in Fontenot's Place. "The atmosphere is friendly and the environment is spotless. They are extremely nice. That definitely makes a difference."

Mrs. Fontenot says she aims to bring a "place to call home" and a "first class dining experience" to the stu-

dents and community by decorating the dining room in purple and gold paraphernalia and providing delivery service.

"All you have to do is call and we will deliver. I want the students to know we are there for them. I want them to come here and feel right at home," she adds.

According to Mayor Jackson, he "has agreed to work with Mr. Fontenot and auxiliary services to make it possible for students to use points from their meal plans at the restaurant."

In addition to managing the restaurant, Mr. Fontenot is currently attending nursing school. He says he will receive LVN certification by Feb. 13, then go on to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Mrs. Fontenot, who is originally from Sacramento, CA, also sells Mary Kay Cosmetics, in addition to serving guests, and helping Mr. Fontenot and her mother-in-law Mary Fontenot do the cooking.

Jackson State University hosting conference for HBCU journalists

By Shameka Reed
Black College Wire

Student journalists from historically black colleges and universities across the country will be spending Valentine's Day at Jackson State University.

They will join newspaper professionals, veteran journalists and recruiters at the 2003 HBCU Newspaper Conference, sponsored by the campus newspaper, The Blue and White Flash; the Jackson State Office of Student Publications; the Hornet Tribune at Alabama State University and the Alabama State University Office of Student Media.

The conference is scheduled for Feb. 13-15 at the Dollye M.E. Robinson School of Liberal Arts on the Jackson State campus in Jackson, Miss.

"It is very important that college and university students who are serious about a career in journalism take full advantage of this opportunity to learn from profes-

sionals and share experiences at campus newspapers with their peers from other institutions," said Sylvia Watley, adviser/student publications director at the university and conference coordinator, saying she was excited that the event was taking place on her campus.

Workshops will cover topics such as online newspaper production, copy editing and visual journalism as well as news/investigative reporting and feature, editorial and sports writing. Media professionals will also speak to students about newsroom management, career preparation, internship opportunities and First Amendment rights and responsibilities.

Watley added: "We also attended the conference a years ago at Tennessee State University, with positive results. We hated to see the HBCU Newspaper Conference die, so we decided, with some help, to try to revive it. Hopefully this year's conference will prove to be as successful as the previous gatherings."

Tenesia Mathews, editor-in-chief of The Panther at Prairie View A&M University, is looking forward to making the trip. "I'm very excited, given that we don't have many conferences for HBCUs. I'm looking forward to seeing what we can bring to the table," Mathews said.

Betty Anne Williams, coordinator of the job fair, is encouraging students to bring multiple copies of resumes and clips.

"The ASNE job fair is one of the best opportunities available to students who want newspaper jobs this summer and to make contacts that could lead to full-time employment later," said Williams.

"Recruiters from national organizations such as the New York Times and the Gannett Co. Inc., which owns USA Today and more than 90 other newspapers, will join representatives from such leading regional newspapers as the Mobile Register and the Birmingham News, both in Alabama, and the Monroe News-Star in Louisiana."

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 Campus Activities Board presents a Black History Movie Marathon Wednesday, February 12, 2003. General Admission is Free. Location: TBA

- 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.

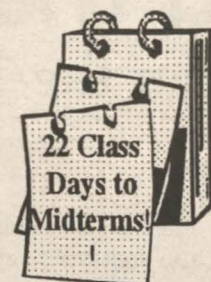
- A test of black history knowledge in teams of four to six members competing for \$300.00 - 1st prize, \$200.00 - 2nd prize, and \$100.00 - 3rd prize. All entries must be received by Tuesday, February 18, 2003. For further information, please call Dr. Louis Williams @ ext. 3924.



The Answers

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 may not early register!!

Items for your calendar:

Friday, Feb. 6 UC rent is due
Monday, Feb. 10 No reinstatement after this date

UC ACADEMIC SUPERSTARS FOR FALL 2002!!

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Karli Gilmore | Elizabeth Cantrell | Ekon George |
| Bernice Andrus | Nathaniel Lawson | Sherry Smith |
| Lillian Barrow | Yvette Hornsby | Jamie McNeir |
| Kendrick Brown | Adam Cervantes | Bryan Waters |
| Charmeshi Allen | Florence Garvie | Michelle Cobb |
| Candace Gilbert | Shantelle Thompson | Joseph Willis |
| Candace Leonard | Johneca Edwards | Ashley Spencer |
| Ramatoulaye Fall | Katrina Massinburg | Andrea Powers |
| Tinieshia Martin | Kristina Smith | Chika Odili |
| Ashley Dillard | Michael Jules, II | Frank Lockman, III |
| Charles Bagley, Jr. | Uyjiosa Oviawe | Stephen Pace |
| Lionel Perron | Benjamin Richardson | Bruce Riley |

health hints

Depression

Depression is an illness that involves feelings of sadness lasting for two weeks or longer, often accompanied by a loss of interest in life, hopelessness, and decreased energy. Such distressing feelings can affect one's ability to perform the usual tasks and activities of daily living.

This is considered to be clinical depression. It is very different from a temporary case of "the blues" triggered by an unhappy event or stressful situation.

Facts about depression

* Depression affects nearly 17 million Americans.

* It is the most common mental illness, yet fewer than half of depressed people seek help.

* Depression affects one in five people at some point in their life.

* It is the leading cause of suicide.

* It reportedly afflicts twice as many women as men (although some observers speculate that this could be because fewer men admit they need treatment).

* Depression affects four times as many people over age 65 as those in other age groups.

* Depression has affected countless accomplished people throughout history, including Abraham Lincoln, Ernest Hemingway, Peter Tchaikovsky, Charles Dickens, Virginia Woolf, and Mary Shelley.

* The number of people who experience depression has increased with every generation since World War II.

Baisden's seminar was engaging, controversial

Well known author comes to Prairie View with straight talk

By: **Leona Aaron**
Panther Staff

Michael Baisden, best-selling author of *Maintenance Man* and *Men Cry In The Dark*, hosted a "Love, Lust, and Lies" relationship seminar Thursday that was quite controversial and unforgettable.

Baisden, a Chicago native, has self-published all his books. He never went to college but was blessed with an incredible writing talent.

The whole basis of his seminars is to tell what men really think about women and how to maintain a relationship.

Baisden started the seminar with a few pointers on starting a relationship. "You should treat a relationship like a business," he said.

"The reason for treating a relationship like a business is because it is an investment for the long term, and you wouldn't invest in anything if you couldn't get anything out of the deal."

He warned that if you don't invest time in your relationship it would not get the nutrients it needs to survive. He said that young students shouldn't even be in love because we are too young to know what real love is.

Baisden said that men are dumb and they only seek out weak women with low self-esteem that they can control.

If a man will not hold an intelligent conversation with you, he might have a weak mind, he contended.

He said that women should stop thinking with their hearts and start thinking more with their minds when it comes to relationships.

Baisden stated that if you really want to know what a man is all about get in good with his sister not his mother.

Baisden went on to say that sometimes people have drama in our

relationships because they have seen all the drama their parents went through.

Either they see their fathers cheating on their mothers or their mothers cheating on their fathers but staying in the marriage for the sake of the children.

Or sometimes you see a mother always bashing an absentee father because he is not around. He said if you see all this drama you are bound to have an unhealthy relationship.

Baisden started a controversy when he said he was a good father to his 12-year-old daughter but he currently dates two women and he is happy and so are they.

Students felt that he was not being a positive role model for his child, but he went on to say that his child has never met any of the women and he doesn't plan on letting them meet.

Baisden went on to say how he cheated on his wife and how every man wants two women. Through all the questions and remarks, his

comments invoked. Baisden said that he is human and this is how he chooses to live his life. He stated that he was being honest and no one could judge him.

Baisden really put his foot in his mouth because he went on to say that getting married is not a good thing.

Baisden said most marriages don't last these days because couples are getting married for the wrong reasons. He said if anyone asked him if marriage was a good idea he would advise against it.

Michael Baisden's visit to this campus was enlightening, controversial, humorous, and negative all at the same time.

Some of the points he made although true were also negative. The highlight of the whole evening was the free books at the door.

As a literary celebrity Baisden needs to realize that he's in the limelight and his words are taken seriously.

He's not to be judged but he must

remember he relies on the public to buy his books, especially females, so you might wanna try not to step on toes.

Baisden should do what he does best - write books- and leave the seminars to real relationship specialists, like Iyanla Vanzant or Dr. Phil.



panther classic
superior
worth mp3ing or borrowing
barely made it
rather study

Prairie View alumna is reaching for higher heights

Career Sevices
Special to Panther

Star Search 2003 will not be the same since one of Prairie View's productive people, Yolanda Gill, engineer turned Loni Love, comedian, won the semi finals and a place in the finals on Feb. 6, on Houston's KHOU CBS Channel 11 at 7:00 p.m.

The winner of the show earns \$100,000 and a role in a major show on CBS TV. On her way to the finals, Loni was the only contestant the judges favored with a perfect score of 20 twice.

In her first appearance she garnered 20 points from the judges and 18 points from the American Public. On the second round, she scored 20 points again from the judges and 17 from the public.

Her phenomenal performance invoked various comments from the judges. "You're phenomenal!" raved Carol Leifer, who gave her 5 stars. Naomi Judd told Loni, "Three words: at-ti-tude. That gives you 5 stars."

Ben Stein raved with enthusiasm about Loni giving her five stars. Tyrese agreed and also gave her 5 stars. If a perfect score from the judges during the preliminaries is any indication of her enormity, her fans expect Loni to walk away with the title, \$100,000 and an appearance in a major CBS Show.

When Loni served as President of the Pan Hellenic Council and as a student assistant in the Office of Student Activities in 1990, being a comedian was a far cry from engineering because she was such a serious honor student and rarely let her hair down.

Perhaps Loni was bitten by the bug while working with the Entertainment Committee and the Campus Activities

See Star page 11

Lead singer of H-Town dies in fatal car crash

Popular 90s R&B group was set to do a reunion album

Chuck 'Jigsaw' Creekmur
Bet.com

On Friday Jan. 31 the entertainer from the successful '90s R&B group was positively identified as a casualty in a car accident from earlier in the week that claimed one other life. He was 28.

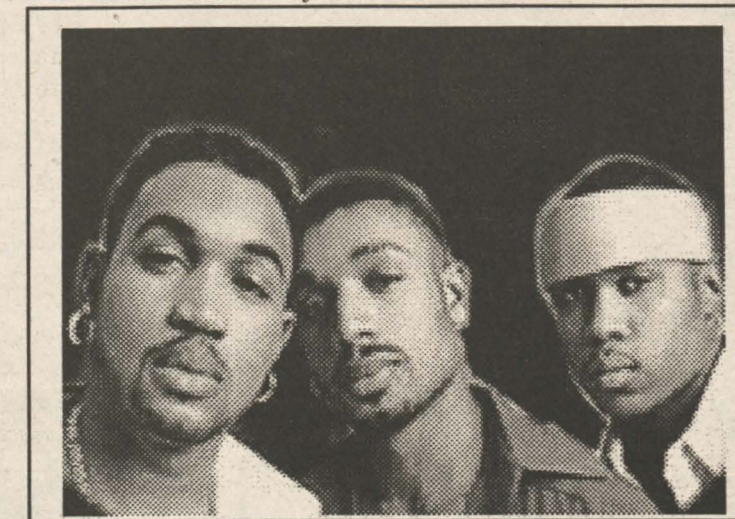
The singer and his girlfriend, 22-year-old Teshya Rae Weisent, were leaving a recording studio approximately 2:30 am Tuesday morning in Houston when the car accident occurred.

The car driven by

Weisent was struck by a SUV that had allegedly run a red light. Reports said Weisent was killed instantly and

Conner died en route to the hospital.

Connor's brother Shazam said that Weisent



picked the singer up from the recording studio just prior to the accident following a recording session.

"We had basically just finished recording our new album and were getting ready for an H-Town reunion tour," Shazam said to the Houston Chronicle. "We really haven't had time to think about what will happen now."

Their single "Knockin' Da Boots" was the group's biggest hit. Their album debut, *Fever For Da Flavor*, went platinum, as did their hit single. Their next album, *Beggin' After Dark*, went gold.

The group also won a 1994 Soul Train Award and garnered prestigious nominations from both the American Music and Billboard Awards.

Search from page 10

Yolanda is employed as an engineer with a major corporation in Los Angeles, a position she's held since her graduation from Prairie View A&M University in 1991.

As a student, Yolanda held membership in several organizations, including the National Society of Black Engineers and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Her honors include the Prairie View Spirit Award, runner-up for the Prairie View Woman Award, and Who's Who Among Students in the American Colleges and Universities.

Richard Pryor, Chris Rock, Robin Williams, Flip Schultz, and John Reep are among some of her favorite comedians.

A win on Star Search should put her closer to meeting some of these luminaries in the industry.

Editor's Old School

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Pick's | Johnny Gill "My, My, My," |
| | New Edition "Mr. Telephone Man" |
| | S.W.V. "Weak" |
| | Leverit "Casanova" Xscape "Understanding" |

- Who was the girl running from the mascots? 2. Does she have a phobia? 3. Who doesn't know you're not supposed to walk out during the school song? 4. Do they really think that we don't know that's Alumni food in the library? 5. Did the cheerleaders really think they look cute in those outfits? 6. When Greeks dress up why do they wear the same thing every week? 7. Which Greeks did not know their history at U.C. meet the Greeks? 8. Why is DJ Whack Shop still here? 9. Who doesn't know you don't start a wave during a free throw of the home team? 10. Why doesn't Phase II have headboards? 11. Since the minimum GPA is 3.0 in the phase III will it be empty next year? 12. Don't the Greeks contribute to on-campus litter with all those flyers? 13. If the people from Dallas want better reputations why don't they quit fighting? 14. Who's ready to graduate? 15. What is Harrington Science contaminated with besides rats, roaches, and spiders? 16. Does Coach Francis need to calm down during the games? 17. What will off campus students do now that overpayments are gone? 18. What does C.S.O. do? 19. Why is the food in the library so high? 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



Photo by Marquese Allen

Well known author of *Men Cry In The Dark*, *Never Satisfied*, and *God's Gift to Women* stirs up controversy at school reading.

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