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## Panther- January 2004 - Vol. LXXXI, NO.14

Prairie View A&M University

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# PVAMU THE PANTHER

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

panther@pvamu.edu



Do you think the march will have an impact on voting?

Page 4

Volume 81, Issue 14

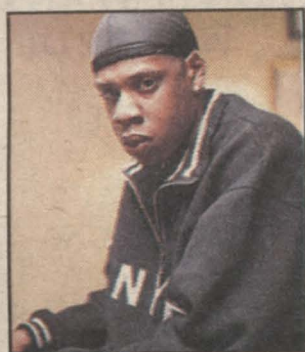
Men's Basketball Team

Last season's champs, this season's \_\_\_\_?

What's their fate?

Page 6

Jan. 21, 2004



Jay-Z's Black Album continues reign

Page 10

## Panthers defy intimidation, weather to assert voting rights

By Barbara Ramirez  
Panther Staff

Prairie View A&M University students took a stand Jan. 15 by marching approximately seven miles from the university's student center to the Waller County Courthouse to protest efforts to deprive the

school's 7,000 students of their voting rights.

Despite rainy weather, national, state and local officials marched with students whose massive presence blocked midday traffic on Highway 290.

There were memorable

chants and historical African-American folk songs fitting for the occasion, and visible signs of unity among the protesters. The size of the crowd was suffocating; each staggering step was almost impossible as those of one instantly replaced footsteps of another. Definitely, "no

student was left behind."

The voter registration march and rally was held in response to a Nov. 5, 2003 open letter written by Waller County District Attorney Oliver Kitzman to County Elections

See Rally page 9



Photo by Evan White

More than 1,300 Prairie View students marched to the Waller County Courthouse in Hempstead under the "No Student Left Behind" voter registration campaign.

## Students, community supporters boycott local businesses

By Nikki Easter  
Panther Staff

The Waller County Leadership Council reported that approximately 95 percent of Prairie View A&M University students and some community members participated in a boycott of all Waller County busi-

nesses last Thursday.

The boycott of businesses that included Wal-Mart, Brookshire Brothers, and all area gas stations was initiated in response to a letter Waller County District Attorney Oliver Kitzman wrote to state representatives threatening PVAMU students' voting rights.

Fliers were distributed around campus asking students not to spend their money where there was no support for the university.

The head of the Waller County Leadership Council, Herschel Smith, said the amount of money these businesses put into the university

doesn't add up to the amount PVAMU students put into Waller County businesses.

"Something big is happening at Prairie View, and it's going to take a unified effort in order to have real effective-

See Boycott page 9



•State•

PV's Seven Day Forecast

Wed Jan 21		Cloudy 58°/44°
Thu Jan 22		Cloudy 53°/40°
Fri Jan 23		Few Showers 56°/42°
Sat Jan 24		T-Storms 58°/44°
Sun Jan 25		Mostly Sunny 66°/44°
Mon Jan 26		Mostly Cloudy 63°/47°
Tue Jan 27		Partly Cloudy 64°/40°

Courtesy www.weather.com

•National•

Man found dead after mattress fire

BENNINGTON, Vt. (AP) \_ A man whose mattress caught fire early Sunday morning was found dead at the scene and police said it looked like he was using illegal drugs.

Police found the body of Michael P. Brady, 38, in his bed on the second floor after Brady's sister, who lived downstairs, called the fire department at about 2:30 a.m., said Detective Sgt. Paul Doucette of the Bennington Police Department.

A lighted candle on the floor near Brady's bed apparently started the blaze, he said.

Girl, 6, found dead in Atlanta motel room

ATLANTA (AP) \_ A 6-year-old girl was found dead in a motel room with a broken back Monday after what police said may have been an exorcism. Two adults were arrested after they and two children were spotted on the street naked in the freezing cold.

The adults, who had been staying in the motel room, were charged with cruelty to children, public indecency and obstruction of police and were taken to a psychiatric ward.

Police said the girl had been brutalized and suffered a broken back and other broken bones. An autopsy was planned.

Based on what the adults told authorities, investigators believe they were involved possibly in a ritual of some sort, police spokesman John Quigley said.

•World•

Holocaust memorial near Vienna vandalized

VIENNA, Austria (AP) \_ Vandals desecrated a Holocaust memorial near Vienna, spray-painting it with the German word for "lie" and sawing down an informational plaque describing Nazi-era crimes, a news agency reported Monday.

The attack was discovered Sunday at the site of a Hitler-era concentration camp in Hinterbruehl, a village 10 kilometers (6 miles) south of Vienna, the Austria Press Agency reported. Police were notified but had not yet found the vandals.

French restaurateurs protest for sales-tax break

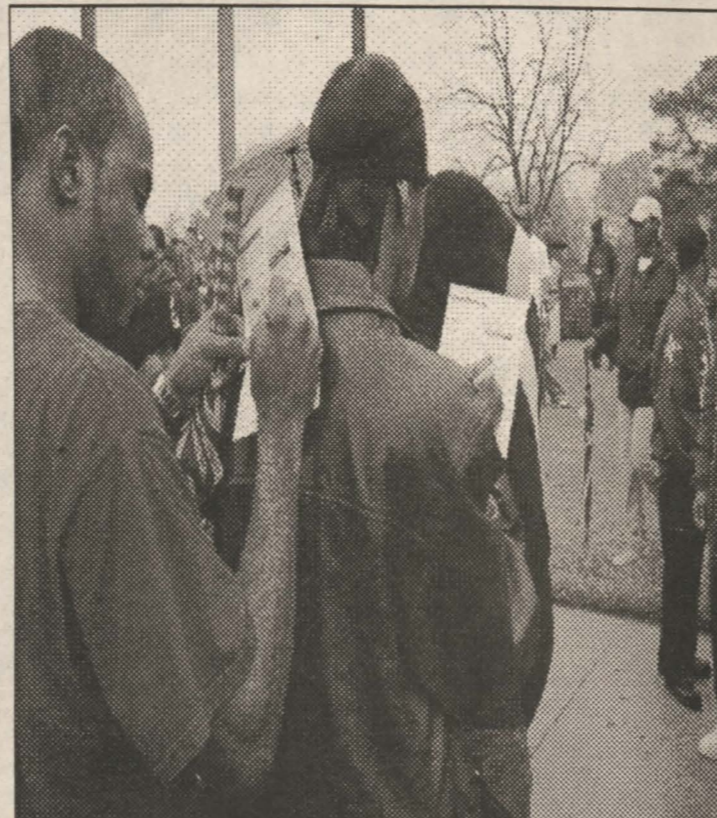
PARIS (AP) \_ Hundreds of French restaurateurs wearing tall white chef hats protested outside the German Embassy in Paris on Monday, urging Germany to accept measures that could lower sales taxes in European hotels and restaurants.

France wants the European Union to lower its minimum value-added tax level in hotels and restaurants so it can cut its own rate from 19.6 percent to 5.5 percent.

However, Germany has expressed concerns that its own hotel and restaurant sector could demand equal treatment.

Andre Daguin, president of the Union of Hospitality Industries and Occupations, said that such a law would create 40,000 jobs.

"Lean on me"



Students lean on one another at last week's protest march at the Waller County Courthouse in Hempstead so that they can fill out voter registration cards.

Photo by Nikki Easter

Police arrest passenger in Delta flight bomb threat

Act but was not charged. She would not say whether police believed he was the person who left a note in a bathroom suggesting there could be a bomb aboard the plane.

A search of the plane turned up no evidence of a bomb.

Detectives had questioned the flight's 147 passengers and searched the plane before declaring it safe Sunday night.

Delta said the remaining passengers would be flown to Atlanta later Monday.

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) \_ Irish police arrested a 19-year-old German man Monday in connection with a bomb threat that forced a Frankfurt-to-Atlanta Delta Air Lines plane to make an emergency landing in Ireland.

Police in Shannon, western Ireland, where the jet landed Sunday, said they were questioning the man, a Flight 27 passenger whose name they did not release.

Police spokeswoman Sinead O'Hara said the man had been arrested under the Air Navigation and Transport

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The Panther

Prairie View A&M University's official student publication

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

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

Surviving 2003 A car accident victim's story

By Leona Aaron Sports Editor

The year 2003 was a rocky one for the students and faculty on this campus. We lost fellow classmates to tragic car accidents and an interim president to illness. I consider myself blessed because I survived two tragic car accidents in 2003. On July 11, 2003 I was driving from a bank in LaMarque Texas, when my car was hit by a minivan. It caused my car to flip in the air and land in someone's yard. I escaped this accident with just a few cuts and bruises.

God was definitely with me that day and little did I know He would have to come to my rescue once more. On Aug. 8, 2003, it started off like

any other ordinary day. I woke up and was getting ready to head for Prairie View to get all my business straightened out before the first day of school. I told my mother goodbye and headed out the door. I fell asleep in the backseat of the car and the next thing I remembered was waking up at Memorial Hermann hospital in ICU, with tubes down my nose and throat. There was a hole in my stomach covered by a bag. The doctor told me I was bleeding



internally and my colon had been punctured, which is why I had a colostomy bag. I suffered a pelvic fracture in the pubic symphysis area and that would be fixed by putting a plate in my back, along with pins and screws in my pelvic area. On Aug. 10, they went ahead with my surgery and told me that I wouldn't be able to walk for six to eight weeks. After surgery I spent another three to four weeks in the hospital learning how to operate in a wheel chair and do things for myself. The nurses, doctors, and physical trainers on staff helped make my stay more enjoyable. My family was with me every step of the way and my mother stayed with me everyday until I came home. She used all of her sick days and vacation time but that is a mother's love; it's unconditional. My father took care of me when I came home using up his vacation time and sick days also. Even though I was only supposed to be in the wheelchair for six to eight weeks, I was in it for 10 to 12 weeks because of flaws in my X-rays. The MRI later proved I had healed nicely, and it was finally

See 2003 page 9

Do you still want your rights?



By NiRoshia Smith L&E Editor

I am a double minority. Most of society sees me as nothing more than a black woman. I understand that sometimes I'll be tested beyond human tolerance. I'm well aware that society constantly attempts to restrain my boundaries. I've come to know that racism still plagues the world that I'm struggling to succeed in. But what I will never comprehend or accept is ignorance toward our current situation. I wasn't surprised when I began to hear the uproar about voting rights. In a world where leaders make comments about their wishes of continued segregation, I know that the fight will never officially be over. What surprised me was that all week long I heard comments that sent me into a political rage. Statements like "I don't know why we're marching anyway," and "It was sense-

less for you to march," should not have been said by anyone. Especially not by the students. Are you aware that you're helping our oppressors? That's exactly what they want you to think! Pardon my rage, but I find it hard to be calm when an attempt is being made to rewind the times to just after the abolishment of slavery. See Rights page 9



The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

UC CONGRATULATES BLDG #36!! OVER 20% OF THE BUILDING HAD A 3.5 OR HIGHER GPA!!!

- You must have a grade of 'C' or better in your developmental class (es) at mid-terms to be able to pre-register for summer or fall 2004.
- Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick TASP/THEA testing schedule or call 936/857-2747.

UC CONGRATULATES THE MARCHING STORM ON ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE HONDA INVITATIONAL, JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> IN ATLANTA!! GO STORM!!!



January 28	DROP DAY (Classes dropped for non-payment)
January 29	Last day to drop classes without record
February 1	Automatic grade of 'W' begins
March 4-6	Housing fee due Mid-term exams

UC WANTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE SOME OF ITS ACADEMIC SUPERSTARS!! Reneka Hayes, Tyshunda Johnson, Jocelyn Moore, Angel Smith, Asad Abdul-Salaam, Jason Bullen, Armando Gutierrez Jr., Christopher James, Anthony Sanders, Adrienne Cain, Endidra Hawkins, Castain Alfred, Amin Memon, Jullian Restrepo, Maricruz Mosqueda, Thelma Uzoegwu, Rory Guice, Lashonda Hall, Erica Hannah, Nicole Jackson, LaKrecia Oliver. (Watch this spot for more superstars next week!!!)

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# Happy New Year



By Denise Cohen  
Managing Editor

Welcome back, Panthers! As the holiday season ends and the new year begins many of us create resolutions to better ourselves both physically and mentally. Well, in all goodness of the new year, I have taken it upon myself to create a list of resolutions for the university so it can have a successful year full of achievements.

1. Financial Aid- Everyone remembers the financial aid fiasco of the fall. Who could forget the long lines and lots of attitude? **Resolution:** Please let us get our award letters from Panther Tracks and put some TVs in the wait area.

2. Sodexo Marriot Dining b.k.a Alumni- The food is better and the atmosphere is great! **Resolution:** Never close! We all eat at different times so we should be able to enjoy the cuisine whenever we choose.

3. To the professors-Great job! Good work! PV students can be proud of the education we are receiving. Our teachers are getting better and better. **Resolution:** How about a few 'A's'?

4. University Village- Oh how our days have changed since the "New Day" slogan appeared. With parking tickets on everyone's car, light bills, and late rent we wish it was a new day so we wouldn't have to pay you guys our O.P.s. **Resolution:** Pay everyone's Black Cat expenses then you will see how we feel.

5. Students- Of course we are great but we could use a little help too. **Resolution:** Let's go to class, learn more, listen to our parents, dress for the weather and not the club, and register to vote (You know I had to throw that one in). Happy New Year Panthers!

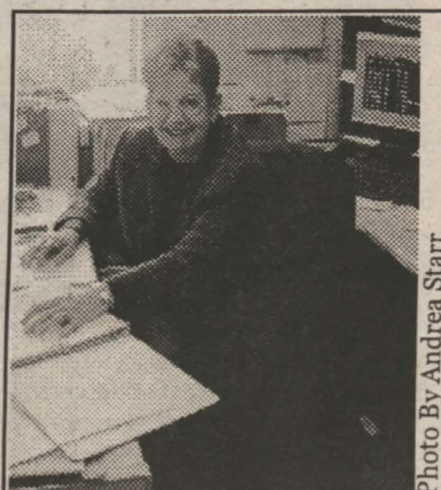
# Off campus freshmen struggle as new semester begins

By Anterria Brown  
Panther Staff

The first year of college is one of the most liberating and exciting experiences an individual may encounter. For many it's their first time living away from home, and the first official taste of freedom.

Unfortunately, some freshmen don't know how to handle this newfound freedom and find themselves caught up with things that have absolutely nothing to do with the priority of higher education. Many forget the reason for coming to college, and consequently some students don't maintain the essential grade point average to satisfy university requirements. As a result of poor judgment, some become victims of academic suspension.

In order to be placed on academic suspension one must acquire a cumulative grade point average that is less than a 1.0 at the end of the first semester. The length of the first suspension is one complete semester, and the second suspension is one full year.



University College Executive Director Lettie Raab says freshmen grades come first.

Photo By Andrea Starr

Upon the conclusion of the second suspension the student must then meet all academic requirements, or be expelled from the university. Academic suspension would also be noted to the student's

guidelines applied to a student on academic probation.

"One of the statistics that caught my attention more than anything else was the fact that if one lived in University College, the possibility of being placed on academic probation is less likely than one who resides elsewhere.

Out of the total number of 1,608 freshmen enrolled at Prairie View A&M University, 1,428 of them live in University College, while 180 live elsewhere. Ninety-seven of the students who reside in University College were placed on academic suspension, (accounting for 7% of the population) while 27% of the freshman commuters were placed on suspension, accounting for 48 of the students who reside off campus.

permanent record, and the student is then placed on probation for the next semester attended at the university. Not only would the student be denied certain privileges given to students in good standing, but the student would also be subject to the

"I definitely feel like I have an advantage academically living in University College. I get a lot of support in my building from my Community Assistant and the Learning Community Manager. I also have a one on

one relationship with my advisor," said freshman University College resident Katrina Miller.

University College offers its residents a comprehensive living and learning environment, and the staff promotes academic success among its students. Although we see the success of University college program, many students don't feel that they have lost anything by residing elsewhere.

"I don't think that if I lived in U.C. my grades would be any different. As long as I can speak with my advisor when I need to, I don't feel that I'm missing anything," said freshman commuter Robert Williams.

Whether freshmen live on campus or resides elsewhere, the most important thing is that they remember the reason they are attending Prairie View and take advantage of the opportunity they have been given.

"We tell the freshmen in orientation, that this first semester is crucial because it is the semester that can catch up with you," said Executive Director Lettie Raab.

# Voting rights under fire 25 years after Supreme Court ruling

By Ed Wendt  
Special to The Panther

January marks the 25th anniversary of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that upheld the right of Prairie View A&M University students to register and vote in Waller County elections.

The Supreme Court ruled in January 1979 that Waller County officials discriminated against PVAMU students in how they determined the voting eligibility of students.

Now, a quarter of a century later, the Waller County district attorney has issued an opinion to the county elections officer that appears to again challenge the right of students to vote in Waller County.

During the spring semester of 1971, Student Government Association President Wendell Chinn led a group of 35 students to the Waller County Courthouse seeking the right to vote. They were met by scores of police

officers and a voter registrar who insisted only students who would swear they intended to reside in the county "indefinitely" could register. Tax Assessor-Collector Leroy Symm considered students at predominantly African-American Prairie View as "transients" who did not meet residency requirements. (The tax collector, at that time, served as voter registrar).

Symm required students to complete a lengthy questionnaire that already had been declared unconstitutional the previous year for students at other Texas colleges and universities. The court ruling also found that a state law requiring students to vote where their parents lived was unconstitutional.

The next year, Charles Ballas, a junior Navy ROTC student, filed suit against Waller County in a Houston federal court challenging the questionnaire. On the day before the Nov. 7, 1972 general election, U.S. District Judge James Noel ruled that Ballas,

who was white, could vote in the general election, but threw out a class action suit covering other students at the university, most of them African-Americans.

Noel also upheld the constitutionality of Symm's controversial questionnaire and voided Ballas' voter registration after he had voted.

The right of Prairie View students to vote in Waller County was fought in the courts for the remaining years of the decade.

In 1975, US Representative Barbara Jordan sponsored legislation that required that Texas be covered by the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Previously, Texas was not included in the act.

The following year, 1976, the U.S. Justice Department of President Gerald Ford filed suit against Waller County charging that the county violated the Voting Rights Act by refusing to allow PVAMU students to vote. Before Rep. Jordan's

amendment, the Justice Department could not intervene in the PVAMU voting rights matter.

Some African-Americans called the situation in Waller County "Little Rhodesia." While the county was predominantly black, they explained, whites had controlled elected offices in the rural county since Reconstruction.

One of the local leaders in the student voting rights movement was Prairie View Mayor Eristus Sams.

Sams pointed to 1970 census figures showing that 53 percent — 7,506 of Waller County's 14,285 residents — were African-American. Figures released to the Justice Department in 1975 showed that 32 percent — or 2,128 of the county's 6,435 registered voters — were black and 59 percent 3,883 — were white.

The Justice Department also reported that there were 2,918 students enrolled at PVAMU

in 1976, almost all of whom were eligible to vote — but could not.

Mayor Sams argued that there was a clear potential for a Black electoral majority in Waller County if students were allowed to vote.

"So, this is Little Rhodesia — all white control of the county government," Sams was widely quoted as saying.

In the fall of 1978, a three-judge panel of the Fifth U.S. Circuit of Appeals in New Orleans ordered Waller County to stop using the questionnaire and other tactics to deny Prairie View students the right to vote.

To be continued

ABOUT THE WRITER-

Ed Wendt is editor of the Houston Forward Times. He was a voting rights activist when he was a PVAMU student in the early 1970s.

# PURPLE & GOLD POLL

## Do you think the march will have an impact on voting?



LaShawn Chambers  
Freshman/Civil Engineering

"I know the march will have an impact as long as P.V. students stand behind their demands, get out and vote."



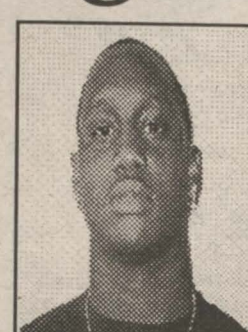
Tiniqua Williams  
Sophomore/Merc. & Design

"I feel that the march will have a great impact on voting because lots of students showed up and care about our rights to vote."



Aaron Hamilton  
Junior/Education

"No because people are going to do what they want to but it still shows a positive effort that we will come together to do whatever is necessary."



Chris Mercer  
Junior/Criminal Justice

"Yes because it would let everyone know the injustice that's going on and get people to come out and vote."

Photos By Andrea Starr



The Gary Gates Family

My family and I marched with you on Jan. 15th, and I'll be there for you in the Texas Legislature. - Gary Gates

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# What Is Cheer?



By Leona Aaron  
Sports Editor

The word cheer in Webster's dictionary means "to instill with hope or courage." When you tack on the word leader you form the word cheerleader.

Cheerleaders are those girls and guys who help uplift your spirits during the game whether the team is losing or winning. We sometimes forget that cheerleading is also considered a sport. Cheerleading is just like any other sporting event here on campus.

Cheerleaders perspire and get physical just like you would on a basketball court, football field, or the diamond.

Last week the cheerleaders were dealt a devastating blow when an rare accident occurred.

Bethany Norwood was seriously injured while practicing for upcoming games. She broke her neck and was life flighted to Memorial Hermann Hospital. She underwent surgery Friday morning and is now recovering. She made an impact her freshman year, when she was named captain of the squad, during the 2000-2001 school year. Now it's time for the students on this campus to cheer her on.

For those who play any sport on campus I am asking you to dedicate your season to Bethany.

After all, she cheered for you no matter what; so now it's time for us to cheer her on during this critical time in her life. Last but certainly not least, I am asking everyone on the entire campus to pray for her.

This is dedicated to Bethany, a cheerleader who doesn't believe in keeping quiet.

# Costly mishap at cheerleading practice

By Leona Aaron  
Sports Editor

Senior cheerleader Bethany Leona Norwood was reportedly paralyzed from the neck down, after a accident in the campus gymnasium last Wednesday.

Norwood, 22, is 5 feet 4 and weighs 155 pounds. After the accident she was life-flighted to

Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston with neck and spinal cord injuries. She underwent surgery Friday morning, and is now recovering.

Norwood is a political science major and has been cheerleading since the age of four.

In her hometown of Converse, near San Antonio,

she left a mark of distinction. At Judson High School, she won three national cheerleading championships with her team, while garnering one on her own.

According to her father's statement in the Houston Chronicle, "she's pretty celebrated in that area." He also stated that Norwood drove from Prairie

View to Sugar Land, where she taught cheerleading to young women. Norwood will enter rehabilitation within two weeks, but she will have to remain in a full body cast for four months, according to her father.

# After being crowned SWAC champions last season, men's basketball team is off to a rough start

By Steven Kennedy  
Panther Staff

Prairie View A&M's men's basketball team reached higher heights last season as they took home the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship title, after an impressive regular season and great showing in the SWAC tournament. The team heads into the 2003-2004 basketball season with a bull's eye on its back, and every team will be playing and have been playing at their highest level to try to upset the Panthers' second run to a consecutive SWAC title.

As we all know in any sport, it's a very difficult job to repeat a championship victory following season. Every team looks forward to playing your squad more than any other opponent on their schedule. Even if a team is less talented then your team, they will find a way to win, and come up with a strategy to defeat you. That's just what the men's basketball team has been facing early on in this season, and as result the Panthers are off to a (1-11) start.

Prairie View A&M's basketball schedule consists of the first 9 to 10 games against Division 1\_A opponents such as Oregon St., Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Air Force, Dayton, Columbia, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Duquesne. Those games are

always tough against much larger schools, but the team



Photo by Gitonga M'Mbijjewe  
The PV's men basketball team show off their SWAC championship rings. But will they dominate again this season?

Panthers always go into every game with a chance to win. Through a stretch of 7 games from Nov. 29 to Dec. 28 this season, senior guard Kevin Cooper led Prairie View A&M in scoring in every game averaging 19.4 points per game, and totaling 136 points. Other players who have stepped up their play on certain occasions are Tyrone Nelson, and Roderick Riley.

Nelson led the team in scoring in games against Oregon St. (22 points), and Southern University (23 points) while Riley scored 16 points against Duquesne, and 26 points in a recent win

against fellow rival Texas Southern on Jan. 10, which so



Photo by Gitonga M'Mbijjewe  
The PV's men basketball team show off their SWAC championship rings. But will they dominate again this season?

far is the Panthers' only win of the season and in conference play. Although the losses to Southern (74-76 in OT), and Alcorn State (67-74) were close, they were conference games and are a major factor in trying to repeat a SWAC championship.

The Panthers lost All-Southwestern Athletic Conference 1<sup>st</sup> team point guard Gregory Burks to graduation, and 2<sup>nd</sup> team All SWAC forward Malachi Thurstin from last year's championship team which is one of the factors in why the Panthers are off to a rough start. Last season the men's

basketball team had the top record in the SWAC with 14 wins, and only four losses in conference games. This season the team has already had two losses.

Head Coach Jerome Francis Jr. is always motivating his players to keep improving, and playing at their highest level, night in and night out. In every season no matter what the record is there is always a turning point in which a team can build something positive and begin to head in the right direction. That turning point for Prairie View A&M might have been in the win against Texas Southern (66-62) on Jan 10. Texas Southern is not only a rival of Prairie View A&M, but gave the Panthers a run for their money last season in the race for the SWAC title. The Tigers also won the SWAC tournament. Defeating an opponent like that on its home court early in the season is a good sign for better things to come for the basketball team.

The Panthers' next home games will be this Saturday, Jan 24 against Arkansas- Pine Bluff, followed by another home game on Monday, Jan 26 against Mississippi Valley State in the Baby Dome. Basketball games begin with the women playing at 5:30 p.m., followed by the men at 7:30 p.m. Come out and support the Panther basketball squads.

# Marching Storm picked to play in Battle of the Bands

Special to The Panther

The Marching Storm of Prairie View A & M University is among world-renowned bands of Historically Black Colleges and Universities that are gearing up for the "Battle of the Bands" in Atlanta Jan 24. PVAMU will take center stage in the Georgia Dome as one of ten university bands selected in nationwide competition from among forty-three school bands.

Fans, commissioners from four athletic conferences, school presidents and band directors voted on-line to make the selections which were based on showmanship,

musicianship and interaction with fans.

According to a university press release, this is the second year American Honda Motor Company is sponsoring the Honda Battle of the Bands' Celebration Tour and Invitational Showcase. The program includes two components. The Celebration Tour, which ran through Nov 22, provided an opportunity for the 43 competing schools to each earn a \$1,000 grant for their halftime performances at selected games during the fall. The ten schools selected as best were invited to the Invitational Showcase in January and will be awarded an additional \$10,000 scholarship grant for

their appearance. Each band also gets all expenses paid to Atlanta which Edwards says amounts to nearly \$40,000 for PVAMU.

Last year Prairie View A&M University's band placed high in competition but missed being one of eight schools selected for the first Invitational. Band director George Edwards says he was elated at hearing the news about PVAMU's latest accomplishment.

"It is a great honor to be invited to this particular event. It's more a showcase than a battle. This represents an opportunity for more people to see Prairie View and get an image of the University

through the Band's performance. It's great exposure," he said.

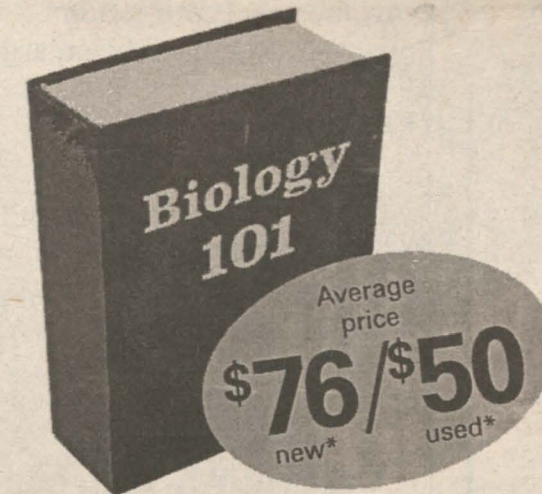
Band member Chris Mitchell said, "I am very excited. This gives us a chance to do something outside the Texas area, something other than just play for football."

The Marching Storm has some prior national exposure. The band participated in high profile events such as the inaugural parades of George W. Bush, Jr. as governor of Texas and President of the United States, the Battle of the Flowers Parade in San Antonio, Texas and the opening of the NFL's venue, Houston's Reliant Stadium. In addition, The

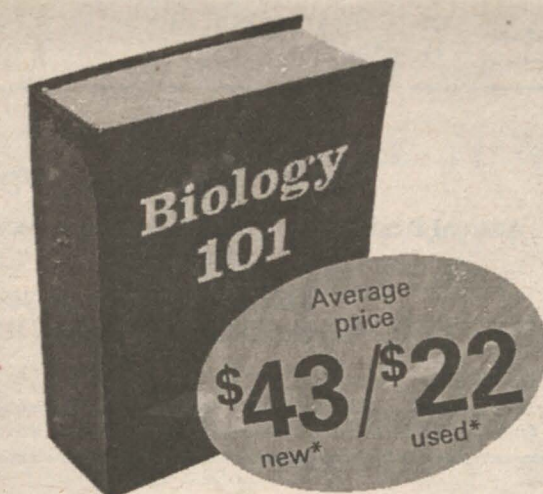
Marching Storm performed before a live nationally televised audience on CBS's "The Early Show" in January 2001.

Keeping in line with Prairie View A&M's motto: Productive People, several of Marching Storm's prominent alumni include Terry Ellis of the multi-platinum recording group En/Vogue, Virgin Records singing group IDEAL and Ricky LaFontaine of the Richard Smallwood Singers.

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# College of Nursing expects to help curb the state's nursing shortage

**Press Release**

Health care professionals and political and academic officials broke ground Jan. 15 for Prairie View A&M University's new multi-million dollar College of Nursing building in the world renowned Texas Medical Center. The groundbreaking took place at the future home of the College of Nursing at 6436 Fannin St.



**Future home of the College of Nursing**

The twelve-floor structure will contain 118,000 gross feet when it is completed in 2005 at a cost of \$31,296,674. The increased space will allow the College of Nursing to double its student capacity to up to 500 students at the Houston Center for bachelor's and master's degrees graduates. The increased capacity is expected to help alleviate the shortage of nursing that has been reaching a critical stage for many hospitals around the country.

The nursing shortage estimated at 110,000 in 2000

is projected to grow to half a million by 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Health

In 1982, the College of Nursing moved into a modern instructional facility in the Texas Medical Center which gave students access to some of the most diverse and advanced health care facilities in the world. Clinical experiences are gained through health agencies in the Texas Medical Center, the City of Houston Health Department, Harris County District health agencies and private and semi-private health facilities throughout the greater Metropolitan Houston Community.

In 2003 the once modern structure of 1982 was demolished to make way for the new College of Nursing that will open in 2005.

The nursing college currently occupies temporary space at 1801 Main St. It has a diverse faculty with graduate degrees from institutions around the country. The faculty represents a large number of medical specialties.

and Human Services.

Prairie View A&M University has been supplying nurses for the state of Texas since 1918 when it began as a two-year nursing program on the main campus. The original program grew to a state and nationally accredited baccalaureate program with the establishment of the Upper Division of the College of Nursing at a Houston site in 1968.

# Health Hints

## SNORING

### Definition

Breathing during sleep accompanied by hoarse or harsh sounds, caused by vibration of the roof of the mouth (soft palate).

Snorers are often not aware that they snore. Snoring is usually normal and not an indication of an underlying disorder. Rarely, however, snoring can be an indication of a serious sleep disorder (sleep apnea). People who snore and have quiet periods lasting more than 10 seconds have some degree of sleep apnea and are at risk for chronic hypoxia (a condition where there is an insufficient blood oxygen level).

### Common Causes

- \*no known cause (most common)
- \*too much alcohol or sedation at bedtime
- \*chronic nasal congestion
- \*obstruction caused by enlarged adenoids and tonsils
- \*sleep apnea

### Home Care

Weight loss can sometimes greatly reduce snoring. If snoring is a result of too much alcohol or sedation at bedtime, then reduce consumption or cut it out altogether. Avoid sleeping flat on the back; sleep on the side if possible.

### Call your health care provider if:

- \*there is excessive daytime somnolence.
- \*episodes of no breathing (apnea) accompany snoring.

### Treatment includes:

- \*Weight loss
- \*Avoid Alcohol
- \*Use of Nasal Dilator strips (e.g., Breathe-rite strips)
- \*Dental appliances to prevent tongue from falling back
- \*Surgical correction of nasal obstruction (e.g., correction of deviated septum)
- \*Palatoplasty -- stiffening of the palate using surgery or injection
- \*Use CPAP mask (device which you wear while sleeping on the nose to decrease snoring and sleep apnea)

Provided by [www.yahoo.com/health](http://www.yahoo.com/health)

### Rally from page 1

threatening the voting rights of PVAMU students based on residency, despite a 1979 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that affirmed students have the right to vote in Waller County.

In the letter, Kitzman claimed, "Incorrect information about what constitutes residency has deprived Waller Countians of fair elections on many occasions in the recent past. Numerous residents urge me to do something about this. It's my duty to do so and I will."

The letter not only prompted local concern but according to a Jan. 1 edition of the *Austin American Statesman*, Gov. Rick Perry sought advice from secretary of state Geoffrey Connor on PVAMU student voting.

"Connor has said he told Kitzman several days ago his interpretation of the law was wrong," the *Austin-American Statesman* reported.

"Kitzman is stubborn and set in his ways," head of the Waller County Leadership Council Hershel Smith said the day before the rally.

Freshman accounting major Cassandra Basley acknowledged the importance of

securing her voting rights during the march.

"This is something very important," Basley said. "People are saying they don't want to vote but they're going to be here for four years—9 months out of a year, and they're talking about not caring. It's going to happen to them not me because I know what I want"

### Boycott from page 1

order to have real effectiveness," Smith said, urging PVAMU professors to educate students to register to vote.

State representative Al Green said the "whole thing is to make sure that people understand the power of the students at Prairie View, and not keep neglecting them like they've been doing. Prairie View is very powerful, that's the reason Kitzman is trying to intimidate them, because they are so powerful."

Junior communications major Melody Barnett said she thinks the boycott is an important idea because PVAMU students are a vital part of the economy in Waller County. "We give them every-

thing they have and if they don't have us they won't have anything," Barnett said.

Senior biology major Tasha Radsatt said although she works in Waller, she was willing to drive to Houston to purchase things she needed until she graduates.

"I feel that because we give them money, they should build a college town around us like they do at A&M, and other places so I wouldn't have to do that," Radsatt said. "But if they don't want me to vote, then they can't have my money."

Prairie View Mayor Frank Jackson said the idea of boycotting Waller County was not intended to hurt the businesses of Hempstead and Waller but designed to motivate PVAMU students to work to develop such businesses in Prairie View. Jackson said boycotting these businesses is the beginning of a movement to fight "economic apartheid" in Prairie View by cultivating entrepreneurs.

Jackson said economic vitality in Prairie View has been stifled by financial institutions in the area that won't supply the seed money to people trying to start building businesses

around the university.

"This boycott was designed to shut it down for one day, but make us reflect and say 'hey wait a minute, we can take care of ourselves, why don't we have this stuff close to home?'"

### 2003 from page 3

time for me to rise up out of the chair. Don't ever think that after sitting in a wheelchair for so long you would start walking normally again. It took me a while just to learn how to stand up and sit down, because it's just as much mental as it was physical. Till this day I still can't walk long distances or climb more than two flights of stairs. I sometimes wobble while it's cold, which will probably happen for the rest of my life. I had a colostomy reversal on Dec. 11, which prohibits me from bending over and causes my stomach to be sore. Through all adversity comes strength. If you find yourself in a situation similar to mine, I want you to remember patience is a virtue. Through those dark clouds comes sunshine and God will not put more on you than you can bear. Stay focused, keep praying, and you will make it

How can you just sit back and watch? I'm not saying that you have to be angry. But don't just sit back and be told that it's okay if we're not allowed to vote. My mother once told me that life isn't fair. It didn't take long for me to see that she was right. But fair or unfair, something has to be done.

Is it okay to you, that few of the surrounding businesses support our school? Is it okay that Texas A&M could care less about our rights? Does that sound normal to you? Have you heard of civil rights? Can you hear the hurtful injustice in the voices around us? I guess you can't. And since you can't, don't blame anyone but yourself. Get out. Get involved, and attain knowledge. Act now so that we can ensure our future.

### Rights from page 3

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## "Wearing The Crown"

Annual Prairie View A&M University Scholarship Pageants Interest Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2004  
Memorial Student Center, RM 203  
5:15 PM

Pageant Information, contestant qualifications, and application packets will be disseminated during the meeting for anyone interested in vying for the title of Miss Prairie View A&M University or Mr. Prairie View A&M University.



# SPRING 2004

The Department of Student Activities & Leadership will offer MIP Forum Sessions in the Memorial Student Center, RM 203

**Mondays & Wednesdays:** January 26, 28, February 2, 9, 11 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:30 PM  
6:30 PM, 7:30 PM  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays:** January 27, 29 February 3, 5, 10 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM  
**Fridays:** January 30, February 6 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:30 PM

MIP Forum attendee space is limited to 20 participants per session. Participants must register with the DSAL in MSC, RM 221 on or before 10:00 AM the day of the session offering.

\*\*\*Prospective members and chapter members must complete one (1) MIP Forum (current semester) prior to the initiation of the respective organization's MIP process.\*\*\*

Failure of the requested individuals to attend the minimum one (1) MIP Forum will forfeit his/her opportunity to participate in the university's SPRING 2004 Membership Intake Program.

**Accepting Applications At:**  
Prairie View A & M  
Memorial Student Center  
Tuesday, January 27, 2004  
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# Jay-Z's black album continues reign

By Roderick Pullum  
Panther Correspondent

Over the years, several prominent figures in Hip Hop have adopted the annoying habit of publicly announcing their plans to retire only to renege on their bold statements. Motives for such behavior vary, but more often than not it's a bargaining tool used as leverage to obtain a more lucrative recording contract, hasty decision making on the part of the artist due to dealing with the stress and rigors of the music industry, or simply a cry for media attention.

The latest MC to join this group of would-be retirees is none other than Sean Carter, who has dubbed "The Black Album" as his final project. If Jay-Z's statements are sincere, this is without a doubt a significant turn of events in Hip Hop. Love him or hate him, Hov has managed to amass a flawless musical resume that will

undeniably grant him the distinction of being one of the greatest, if not THE greatest, MC's to ever grace a microphone.

If it is indeed his final LP, "The Black Album" does justice to Sean Carter's career and serves as the proper farewell his fans deserve. This album can best be summed up as a lyrical victory lap Jigga uses as a means to solidify his legacy, answer critics, and bring closure to various personal issues in his life.

"What More Can I Say," the album's second track, brings Jay-Z's career full circle. In the first verse Jay-Z cleverly addresses those who have criticized his incorporation of The Notorious B.I.G.'s lyrics into his music, and spews a few verbal jabs at artists who he accuses of imitating his style.

The Eminem produced "Moment of Clarity" is a brutally honest and introspective song that delves into the painful relationship Jay had with his

now deceased father. The second verse features some of Jigga's most profound and candid lines ever. Jay-Z openly discusses his reasons for modifying his style to a certain extent in order to make his music more profitable.

"Allure" is an in-depth tale that examines how the glamorous aspects of hustling can become addictive despite the obvious pitfalls that the lifestyle has to offer. The song is unique because of Hov's honesty. He concocted a song that balances information about the tragedy and the glory of street life. It may take time to grow on some listeners, but is by far one of the better songs on the album.

Roc-A-Fella's superstar in-house producer Kanye West teams up with Jay for two tracks, including the head-nod provoking "Lucifer". West managed to dig up another befitting sample to comprise the hook for "Lucifer," and the beat is made complete by an infectious bass guitar.

Lyricaly, Sean Carter brought nothing short of his A-Game to "The Black Album". He consistently delivers quality verses on every song. There haven't been too many albums that can match the lyrical consistency of S Dot's final project. Even the lackluster songs, as the D.J. Quik produced "Justify My Thug,"

"Threat, and "Dirt Off Your Shoulder" are weak due to flat and/or uninspired production - not because of his lyrics.

If Sean Carter is truly leaving the rap game alone, true fans may feel the sting of the void he'll leave; they should take solace in knowing that he's exiting at the top of his game on his own accord.



Photo courtesy of Google Images  
Although we're sad to see Hov go, most of us are wondering if it's only a publicity stunt.

# The Panther's Celebrity Justice

By Kristina Rogers  
Panther Staff

Several celebrities have been making headlines with their courtroom drama. The Panther has decided to add its own comedic spoof twist of the hit show "Celebrity Justice." Here's what we think will happen:

**Defendant:** Michael "Wacko Jacko" Jackson  
**Charge:** Sharing his bedroom with young boys and allegedly serving them alcohol (which is a felony). Jackson purportedly claims he lets young boys sleep in his room but he doesn't hurt them in any way.  
**Plea:** Innocent.  
**Recent News:** During an interview with Ed Bradley on 60 Minutes, the defendant complained of being locked in a restroom covered in feces and mistreated by police officers. He was arraigned on Jan. 16, and he not only arrived ap-

proximately 21 minutes late, but also managed to put on a show for fans, by dancing on top of his black SUV.  
**Verdict:** Jackson will be acquitted of all charges, and the parents of the boy(s) will be indicted. Perhaps after going through his "Thriller," hopefully he'll turn to the "Man in the Mirror" and change his ways.

**Defendant:** Martha "Money Lady" Stewart  
**Charge:** Selling 3,928 shares of her ImClone stock, a day before the FDA said it would not permit the company's drug Erbitux, then lying about not getting a hint from ImClone CEO Sam Waksal, who was believed to be more than a friend.  
**Plea:** Innocent.  
**Recent News:** Defendant's court date was set for Jan. 20. Cameras were not allowed in the courtroom. If convicted poor Martha will have to serve up to 30 years in prison. How-

ever, Stewart may never have to decorate a prison cell. According to her attorney she'll have to do community service and pay a pretty penny in fines.  
**Verdict:** Defendant will bypass prison, by convincing a jury consisting of Martha's Kitchen fans that she never intended to commit fraud. She will complete community service as well as pay a huge fine.

**Defendant:** Kobe "I Love My Wife" Bryant  
**Charge:** Sexually assaulting (raping) a front desk hotel worker, when she joined him in his room.  
**Plea:** Innocent.  
**Recent News:** Experts predict that his trial will be held some time in the spring, but no court date has officially been set. If convicted Bryant faces up to a \$750,000 fine and probation or life in prison. Defendant was booed at an L.A. Lakers game against the Denver Nuggets.

**Verdict:** Defendant will be found innocent and acquitted of all charges but still enjoy eventful nights at hotels. In addition Vanessa will divorce him, pawn the ring and use the money to pay for his daughter's education.

**Defendant:** Robert "Pied Piper, Kells, R. Nasty" Kelly  
**Charge:** Child pornography; videotaping consented intercourse with a minor; then lying to his fans, saying it wasn't him on the tape when the entire world saw him on the tape.  
**Plea:** Innocent.  
**Recent News:** Kelly served some time in a Florida jail, and paid a hefty fine. But it's not over because it's constantly brought up at award shows, in songs, etc.  
**Verdict:** He didn't see nothing wrong with a little bump and grind, because "Her Body was Calling," and she had that "thoia, thoia thoin," and they did it for love.



# Super Bowl brings excitement to Houston

By Albert Hughes & Rodney Palmer  
Panther Staff

Big screens, parties, and hot wings to go with a little pigskin could only mean one thing this time of year: Super Bowl Sunday. With the festivities coming to Houston, you know it will be a colossal event. Greater than Super Bowl VIII played at Rice Stadium thirty years ago, more exciting than the rebirth of Phi Slamma Jamma in Houston which brought two NBA titles into town, and even bigger than Yao Ming.

Just how big might you ask? For starters, the city of Houston is expecting economic impact of more than \$300 million with the majority of spending on hotels, food and entertainment. But Houston

is hoping for more than just economic advancement; city officials are organizing a week of events that will include activities for all ages that will display Houston's deep southern hospitality.

Grammy Award winning recording artist and Houstonian Beyonce Knowles will be singing the National Anthem prior to the game, which will kick off at 5:25 p.m. CT on Feb. 1, in Reliant Stadium and aired on CBS to over 130 million viewers across the country. CBS hooked up with MTV to produce this year's halftime extravaganza including Janet Jackson, P.Diddy, Nelly, and Kid Rock.

The week prior to the event will consist of a full line of events, such as a Football Youth Clinic held at Reliant Park, NFL Alumni

Invitational Golf Showcase in the Woodlands, a gospel celebration in Reliant Arena, and a celebrity hoops game held at Hoeffinz Pavilion on the University of Houston campus. The media headquarters will be located in the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston.

The team representing the American Football Conference will be staying in the Intercontinental Hotel and practicing at Rice University; the National Football Conference team will be staying at the Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel and ironing out their kinks at the University of Houston.

The 2004 Houston Super Bowl Host Committee will be in charge of providing the best

opportunity for the 100,000 expected visitors and out of towners to experience and enhance the biggest sporting event in America. The committee will provide transportation, marketing, volunteer recruitment and has helped minority and women owned businesses to get involved in the deals that the Super Bowl festivities have to offer.

For the celebrities and athletes, the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee has set up "The Point After," a group of events starting Tuesday, Jan. 27 and ending with the "Player's Gala VI" on the night of the game. Parties and mixers included in "The Point After" will be filled with celebrities, athletes and plenty of champagne with tickets ranging from \$75 to \$250 a person.

For those corporate big-wigs the committee has set up the "The Big Texas Road Trip" which allows Super Bowl ticket holders to enjoy a tour of the Reliant

Center's attractions which include historical artifacts and displays on the day of the game. Riders will also be able to enjoy music, learn about Texas culture and experience some down south barbecue.

With the opposing teams both coming from cities relatively far from Houston do not expect this to make a big difference. Come this Sunday the city lights of Houston will be lit up from Antoine to MacGregor Way and filled with excited people. It will mark the dawn of a new era for the growing city of Houston. "We will enhance Houston's worldwide visibility and add to the quality of life of individuals who live, work and visit in the state of Texas, Harris County and the City of Houston," says the host committee. With Houston's diverse mixture of people, booming nightlife and state of the art facilities the Super Bowl is sure to show the world what H-Town is all about.

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1. How many of you are still tired after the march?
2. When you were at the courthouse did you feel the urge to say "Free Mr. Clark?"
3. Whose mama was waving that flag?
4. Who were the girls taking pictures in the MSC the first day of the semester?
5. Why can't we put books on lay-a-way?
6. Who is going to Atlanta for five hours?
7. What's really being built next to Fuller court?
8. Shouldn't we put violation stickers on the police for their attitudes?
9. Do they AKAs feel right wearing letters that they haven't earned?
10. Doesn't the bible say beware of false prophets?
11. Do the new Alphas have dog tags?
12. Didn't you think Jesse Jackson was going to show up for the march?
13. Shouldn't the day we marched be turned into a holiday from now on?
14. Are the Deltas planning to take more than 50 girls so they can beat the AKAs?
15. Shouldn't we get a refund now that Chick-Fil-A closes early?
16. Why can't we pay for decals at the police stations since we have to go there to get them?
17. Why did the MSC serve smothered fried catfish?
18. Did the band really lose 64 members because they couldn't keep a 2.0?
19. Will someone tell the Black Foxes to leave their ponytails at home so they don't embarrass us in Atlanta?
20. What do you think?

This is for Entertainment Only. The questions submitted are not the views of The Panther. Want to tell us what you think? Please bring your comments and questions to Rm. 219 MSC or e-mail [panther@pvamu.edu](mailto:panther@pvamu.edu). Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther



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