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THE PANTHER

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Black Caucus, Rock the Vote storm PV Legislators, activists confer with students

By Nikki Easter
Panther Staff

The Congressional Black Caucus and Rock the Vote hosted a town hall summit Monday on the university campus to allow students to interact with state and national elected officials about issues of common concern.

Moderated by Rock the Vote President Jehmu Green, a panel of elected officials, U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, U.S. Rep. Shelia Jackson-Lee (D-TX) 1st vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, State Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-TX), State Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-TX), Representative Sylvester Turner (D-TX), and Rap the Vote activist Q-Tip listened to students voice their concerns about issues such as fee deregulation and funding, early education reform, unemployment, entrepreneurship, voting, and health care.

University President George Wright said this summit gave students an opportunity to see how the political process works, thus galvanizing their interest in politics.

"Politics affect even those who say they are going to sit on the sidelines, so everyone should take a proactive role," Wright said.

Cummings, a former Howard University student government president, said he was moved and impressed by the way students of this university were fighting for their



Clockwise: Hip-hop artist Q-Tip gets the crowd pumped at the Rock the Vote Rally in the MSC. Dr. George Wright, president of PVAMU, Q-Tip, and Rock the Vote president Jehmu Greene on stage at the Rock the Vote Forum. U.S. Reps. Sheila Jackson-Lee(D-TX) and Elijah Cummings (D-MD) chat with Dr. Wright before the forum.

Photos by Denise Cohen and Leona Aaron

panther@pvamu.edu



Do you feel the food fight disgraced the campus?

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The Final Tribute to Black History:

Henry Mims

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25 recruits to play for Panthers in fall 2004.

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


•State•

•National•

•World•

Rock the Vote

PV's Seven Day Forecast

Wed Feb. 25		Few Showers 51°/35°
Thu Feb. 26		Sunny 60°/35°
Fri Feb. 27		Partly Cloudy 63°/48°
Sat Feb. 28		Few Showers 70°/53°
Sun Feb. 29		Scattered T-Storms 70°/46°
Mon March 1		Few Showers 67°/49°
Tue March 2		Few Showers 67°/50°

Courtesy of www.weather.com

House backs ban on cell phones for new drivers

DENVER (AP) — New drivers would be barred from using their cell phones under a bill approved by state lawmakers Monday.

The proposed ban would apply only to drivers with six-month learner's permits, typically teen-agers. Violators could be ticketed only if pulled over for another offense and would face a \$15 fine and a point on their driving record.

Jury finds for P. Diddy in lawsuit

DETROIT (AP) — A Wayne County jury found in favor of Sean "P. Diddy" Combs on Monday, not buying a television interviewer's claim that he was roughed-up after asking an objectionable question of the rapper and music producer.

The lawsuit emerged out of a 1999 interview in Detroit by Roger Mills.

Mills said members of Combs' entourage roughed him up and stole the tape of the interview breaking a camera in the process after he asked Combs to comment on allegations he contributed to the death of fellow rapper Christopher Wallace, known as Notorious B.I.G.

Mills said Combs immediately ended the interview. Combs was known to be a close friend of Wallace's and even dedicated a song to him. Combs testified in court last week that he couldn't remember the incident.

Mexican officials arrest suspects in New York-linked sex slavery

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A gang that has forced women into prostitution in Mexico and the United States has been crushed by a series of arrests, Mexican officials said Monday.

Federal agents arrested six people in Mexico and were hunting for at least six other people, the federal interior department said in a news release.

The department, which oversees security and immigration matters, said the gang seduced or kidnapped girls and women aged 12 to 25, raped them and then forced them to work as prostitutes in the central Mexican cities of Puebla and Tenancingo.

Some were later taken to the United States for prostitution there.

Court studies complaint alleging "Finding Nemo" copied French children's book

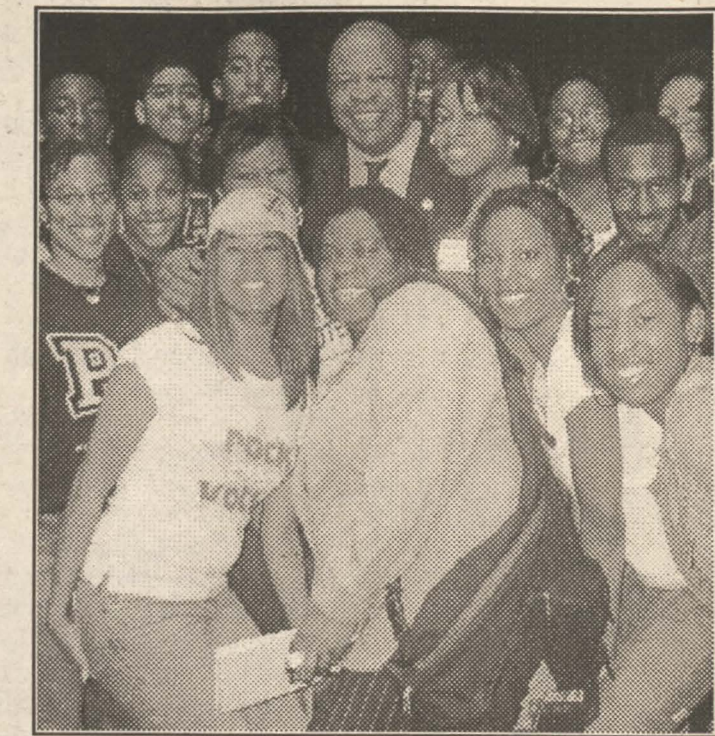


Photo By Leona Aaron

Congressman Elijah Cummings poses with Rock the Vote volunteers after the CBC open forum.

PARIS (AP) — A French children's book author claims there's something a little too fishy about Nemo.

Franck Le Calvez went to court Monday to argue that the lovable title character in "Finding Nemo" is a copy of his own creation, a smiling orange-and-white clown fish named Pierrot.

A Paris judge will decide March 12 whether "Finding Nemo" products should be pulled from the shelves in France while Le Calvez's lawsuit against Pixar and Disney is pending. Black-robed lawyers cradled Nemo stuffed animals Monday as they argued their cases.

Le Calvez claims Nemo's creators copied his character and story, "Pierrot the Clown Fish," about a young fish separated from his family - o a plot similar to "Finding Nemo." The case is for breach of copyright and trademark.

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- \$4.99**
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 - 3 pc Drum & Fries
 - 6 Shrimp, 1 piece Catfish & Fries
- *** ASK FOR SPECIALS ***

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.

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The Panther Spring 2004 Staff

Editor-in-Chief:
Christina M. Johnson

Managing Editor:
Denise N. Cohen

Lifestyles & Entertainment Editor:

NiRoshia K. Smith

Sports Editor:
Leona D. Aaron

Copy Editors:
Nikki Easter
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Anterria Brown
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Photographers:
Shakira Martin
Evan White

Advertising Manager:
Antoinette Mims

Business Manager:
Ashley Davis

Phone: (936)857-2132 • Fax: (936)857-2340 • Room 219
Memorial Student Center • P.O. Box 2876, Prairie View, TX 77446
• panther@pvamu.edu

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

Let's get it together

Prairie View doesn't deserve the embarrassment

Panther Editorial Board

Let us break down the gist of this column so that you can fully understand how we feel: We are disappointed.

No, seriously- we are disappointed. Not at ourselves, but at the student body of Prairie View A&M University. With the recent events that have happened, we feel the need to vent:

Students:

On Monday, the Congressional Black Caucus and Rock the Vote held a forum for students to voice their concerns about problems affecting students and the nation to various members of Congress.

Instead of asking questions concerning fee increases, civil rights violations, and funding for HBCUs, you guys decided to skip out on the event. When we asked all of you why you weren't planning to attend the forum, here are some of the responses that were given:

- "I have a study group."
- "I have to go eat."
- "Ummm..."
- "What forum?"
- "I just don't feel like it."

These sorry excuses are not acceptable. Many people worked hard to bring the event to Prairie View, and for not even half of the student body to show up means that all that hard work was done in vain. Not only is that a lack of respect for ourselves, as students, but it also shows the lack of respect some of you have for our school.

If it were a "Chingy" dance contest, sporting event, or casual conversation in the MSC with friends, you would have had time for it. What if all of your extracurricular activities were taken away? Would you take time out of your so-called busy schedules to express your opinions then?

Probably not. You would have better things to do, like not study, play your PS2,

and last but not least, watch television re-runs that you've already seen a million times.

Many of you plan to vote but don't have a clue about the issues that Prairie View faces. These issues were discussed that night. In the fall, don't complain about tuition being increased or a new fee being implemented for the year. You had your chance to vent.

Student Government Association:

Why didn't you publicize this event earlier? You guys knew ahead of time that the Congressional Black Caucus was coming, so why not plan ahead?

Your lack of planning and disorganization caused a serious problem Monday night.

Isn't the Student Government Association supposed to represent the student body? If you really cared about the students you would have had the information about the event out the day after the Congressional Black Caucus called and confirmed its leaders were coming.

Instead of looking out for your own personal interest and trying to make yourselves look good, do what your job requires you to do- be the voice of the student body.

Your inadequate preparation for the event was clearly evident. Please, get your

act together.

Everyone:

We hope you understand the importance of this situation. Prairie View is in the spotlight and we need to take advantage of it. Before we even had our 15 minutes of fame Monday night, we had already showed our true colors and embarrassed ourselves. We gave ammunition to those who view us negatively sometimes. We showed why we have been treated like a stepchild for so long. It's time for it to end.

Prairie View- wake up and get your act together.



The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ACADEMIC SUPERSTARS RECOGNIZED AT THE HONORS' BANQUET



- You must have a grade of 'C' (OR 'S') or better in your developmental class(es) at mid-terms to be able to pre-register for summer or fall 2004.



- February 27 Black History Dance Concert
- March 1 Rent Due
- March 4-6 Mid-term exams
- March 8-13 Spring Break
- March 31 Founders' Day/Honors Convocation

UC RECOGNIZES TWO OUTSTANDING FRESHMAN ATHLETES:
Jose Mata, BLDG #36: Pitched a winning game over Houston-Tillotson!!
Rickey Thomas, BLDG #45: Hit his 2nd home run of the year!!

- The BLDG #39 Faculty Fellow provided a workshop on Academic Survival Skills for Midterms!!
 - BLDG #46 welcomed new LCM Ronnie Davis and held a Test Taking Seminar led by the Faculty Fellow!
 - BLDG #40 held a Pizza party for its 3.0-3.49 students!!
- The UC Black History Talent Explosion Huge Success!!!: Students packed the Hobart Taylor Auditorium on February 19th, for this exciting event. Twenty acts provided a night of outstanding talent to an SRO audience. The activity collected non-perishable food and donations for local families in need.

SELF EMPOWERMENT.....COMING IN MARCH TO UC!!

PV sponsors 6th African-American Summit in Austin

Press Release

As a sponsor of the 6th African-American Summit, Prairie View A&M University is hosting a youth luncheon at noon on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Marriott at the Capitol in Austin.

Ron Kirk, former mayor of Dallas, is the keynote speaker for the luncheon. The theme of his presentation is "Preparing African-American Youth to Embrace the Future."

The luncheon is part of a three-day summit hosted by Sen. Rodney Ellis of Houston and Sen. Royce West of Dallas, Feb. 26 through Feb. 28.

Multiple panel discussions and workshops will focus on a variety of topics, including technology, homeland security, redistricting, faith-based initiatives, the black media, women in leadership, men in leadership, economic development, race relations and insurance issues.

West and Ellis will moderate a special symposium, "A Tale of Two Houses," Saturday, Feb. 28 at 3:30 p.m. A young adult rap session on "Generation X and Y Speaks Out," entitled "Challenging the Status Quo," is scheduled to run concurrently at 3:30 p.m.

A Friday evening reception, a Saturday morning prayer breakfast and a Saturday evening banquet are also scheduled.

Feb. 12 was the deadline for special hotel rates at the Marriott at the Capitol. The symposium registration is \$50 made out to PV Research Foundation/SLBC, and mailed to SLBC, P. O. Box 12093, Austin, Texas. 78711-2093.

For questions or more information contact Annette Holmes, project chair at 512-260-1336.

Attention all Who's Who recipients: You can now pick up your certificates in Student Activities in the MSC Rm. 221

Global corporation kicks off new HBCU initiative with Prairie View

Press Release

Prairie View A&M University, Texas Tech University in Lubbock and the ING U.S. Financial Services global corporation are unified to challenge the status quo in financial planning and to attract more African-Americans and Hispanics to the finance industry. According to the CFP Board of Standards 1 percent of African-Americans and 1.2 percent Hispanics are represented in the financial planning industry.

Representatives from ING U.S. Financial Services, the CFP board (Certified Financial Planners) and Texas Tech University visited PVAMU campus on Feb. 18 to witness a historic union and signing. Dr. George C. Wright, president of PVAMU and Dr. Jon Whitmore, president of Texas Tech, formally signed an alliance agreement that commits the two universities to



Texas Tech President John Whitmore and Dr. George Wright sign an alliance with ING.

work together to increase diversity in the financial planning industry.

ING, a worldwide financial planning company with 10,000 employees and 14 million customers in 60 different countries is providing financial backing in the Texas

Tech venture with PVAMU, the premier institution for kicking off the financial planning program of ING U.S. Services and CFP at HBCUs around the country. Ricardo Valencia, senior vice-president and head of domestic

emerging markets for ING said the relationships created will challenge the status quo.

Gary Diffendaffer, the acting CEO of the CFP Board of Standards says Historically Black Colleges and Universities have a significant role to play in meeting the diversity needs of the industry. He said

PVAMU's initiative "offers hope that other institutions will follow that lead."

Wright said there will be personal impact as well. "Not only will this benefit our students as they navigate their own financial futures, but it will enhance career opportunities for them and it will most definitely impact in a positive way, the lives of their families and the communities that they live in."

Some of the actions planned are a minor in certified financial planning offered at the PVAMU College of Business, involvement in research, and exchange opportunities between Texas Tech and PVAMU. Completion of the minor in certified financial planning would make students eligible to sit for the prestigious Certified Financial Planning Exam.

Navy hosts HBCU NROTC conference

Special to the Panther

Rear Admiral Ann E. Rondeau, Commander, Naval Service Training Command, held a Navy sponsored conference at Great Lakes Naval Station, North Chicago, Ill. with presidents and chancellors of the seven Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) which host Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Units.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss ways of increasing the yield of African-American naval officers commissioned through the respective universities. In attendance were the president and chancellors or their representatives from Prairie View A&M, Morehouse, Southern A&M, Hampton, Savannah State, Florida A&M, and Norfolk State Universities.

Dr. Edward Martin, interim dean of the College and Arts and Science at Prairie View A&M University and Captain Larry J. Watson, professor of naval science, represented President George Wright at the conference.

Currently there are 57 NROTC units/consortiums including 69 colleges/universities throughout the United States. The NROTC Program is available at over 100 college and universities.

The unit at Prairie View A&M is the oldest of the HBCU units.

The Prairie View NROTC Company currently has approximately 40 members enrolled and is commanded by Midshipman Commander Christopher Dixon.

Watson is the commanding officer of NROTC, Houston Consortium and professor of naval science at Prairie View and Rice.

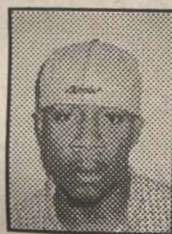
PURPLE & GOLD POLL

Do you feel the food fight brought disgrace to the campus?



Jessica Jackson
Junior/Marketing

"I think that especially in the presence of guests to the campus, we should try to act more mature and civilized."



Alvin Mitchell
Senior/Comp. Eng. Tech

"I think it brought a disgrace to the campus because we are trying to solve a problem and some students are steadily making them."



Lashaquay Haynes
Senior/Biology

"I feel that it was very disrespectful especially since we are trying to rally for voting rights. It shows how ignorant we can be sometimes."



Warren Davis
Senior/Criminal Justice

"I feel that it was a disgrace because it made the university look bad."

A final salute to Black History Month

Henry L. Mims (1874-1942)

In April 1893, Henry L. Mims was employed by the U.S. Post Office as a railway mail clerk to sort mail on trips between Texas cities. Mims was among the small group of African-American Texans with a federal job. He worked for the Houston and Texas Central Railway.

In 1913, Mims and other railway mail clerks learned that Anglos wanted their jobs when railway cars were constructed of steel. Mims organized a meeting of 16 fellow African-American railroad employees in Houston.

The Houston group joined with other railway clerks in the U.S. later that year to form the National Alliance of Postal Employees. Mims was elected the first president. By 1915, Mims was a supervisor

with an annual salary of \$1,700, the highest for a railway clerk at the time.

Mims was also a pioneer with the NAACP. He became the first president of the Houston NAACP in 1918. The organization led the fight for justice after a 1917 Houston riot led to the hanging of 13 members of the 24th infantry. The Houston NAACP recruited over 300 members that first year paying dues of \$1 each.

Mims was also a businessman and a self taught geologist. In 1922, he formed Retrieve Oil Corporation with an office at 500 Louisiana and began drilling on leases north of Houston. Four years later Mims resigned from Railway Mail Service to pursue oil exploration and other business ventures. Among the well-known oilmen for whom Mims



Henry L. Mims

scouted oil was Jim West of Houston. In 1928, Mims had \$90,000 worth of real estate.

Among the civic activities of Mims was membership with the Knights of Pythias fraternity and trustee of Wesley Chapel AME Church.

Mims was born in Bryan, Texas, where he graduated from high school in 1890. He received his higher education at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Nannie were parents of two sons,

Leonard and Alfred J. They lived in a large two story white house at 2218 Scott Street for over 30 years where Mims owned the entire block. His daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Kilpatrick Mims remembers him as quiet, very serious and also known as "Derby" because of his trademark hat.

Mims retained his membership with the National Alliance of Postal Employees and was honored as president emeritus. The organization commemorates its first president and others with a memorial plaque at Lookout Mountain, near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Henry Lucius Mims is buried in north Houston on Hirsch Road at Oak Park Cemetery.



The Gary Gates Family

I Support...

- Students' right to vote in local elections
- Students' right to affordable higher education
- A limited role of government in public education

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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Integrity



By Leona D. Aaron
Sports Editor

As Black History Month comes to an end we must not forget a man who deserves much recognition for his role in college football history. Before Tony Dorsett, Jim Brown, or Earl Campbell there was Paul Robeson. Even though he deserves praise 365 days a year instead of one month of the year, he will never be forgotten.

He might not have played in the NFL, but he was one of the first African-Americans to start and play for a predominately white university in the United States.

Robeson played several positions, including running back, punt blocker, and lineman, his primary position. At 6-foot-2, 210 pounds, Robeson played for Rutgers University from 1916-1919.

Robeson endured prejudice and bigotry from fellow teammates, but he did not let it intimidate him, instead using their ignorance against them. He was an All-American athlete on the field and a scholar in the classroom. Robeson graduated Phi Beta Kappa and valedictorian of Rutgers University's class of 1919. He is remembered mainly for his great Broadway performances and film attributes, and was an all-around talent who couldn't be characterized or judged.

Paul Robeson was not inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame until 1995, 19 years after his death and 47 years after the College Football Hall of Fame was established, all because he wouldn't compromise his integrity and self-dignity to fit in.

Next time you pick up a football, take time to pay homage to Robeson, because he went through much racism just so you could attend the school of your choice.

Signing day brings 25 football recruits for fall 2004 season play

By Palmer Perez
Panther Staff

Feb. 6 may be an ordinary day to most people, but to college football coaches around the country, it's comparable to April 15th for taxpayers. The day is the culmination of a year's worth of work, as prep football stars sign on with colleges. Prairie View head coach Henry Frazier III may have gotten a late start, but he got a great group of quality kids.

Frazier says that Thomas Davis, the state's leading rusher from Davis High School is the prize of this year's recruiting class. "Once we decided on what we needed, we aggressively went after it," says Frazier. "Thomas Smith is one of the best in the state, and we were very fortunate to land such a good kid." Along with Smith, the Panthers landed Arlington native Derrick Bowman, who rushed for over 1,700 yards and 31 touchdowns. "We actually signed four running backs who totaled over 6,000 yards and 92 touchdowns."

Smith, who rushed for 2,531 yards and 32 touchdowns chose Prairie View A&M although he took an official visit to Texas A&M. "We didn't think we had a chance at him, James Jones (defensive coordinator) was

actually the coach that landed that recruit, I just sorta closed the deal and OK'd it," said Frazier.

"You have to think big time, you have to have confidence in yourself to come in here and help turn this program around." Coach Frazier also mentioned that getting kids from

winning programs (like the signing of two kids from state champion La Marque) is important, because you want kids that have a winning attitude, and you want them to bring that attitude to the team.

Frazier added that he was extremely proud of his coaching staff and all of the effort that they put into this year's recruiting period. The main goal was to secure Texas and gather a lot of kids from the surrounding areas, but Frazier said that each of his

coaches tapped into their out-of-state resources and were able to land four prospects from Maryland and three

more from Florida.

The Prairie View signees include the following: Chris Adams (6'5, 280, DT, Sweeny, Texas/Sweeny H.S.) Craig Adams (6'5, 280,

DT, Sweeny, Texas/Sweeny H.S.) Kingsley Adebunola (6'2 255, DE, Randallstown, MD/Randallstown H.S.) Steve Barber (6'0", 285, DL, Lancaster, Texas/Lancaster H.S.)

Jason Best (6'3, 275, OT, Brandywine, MD/Gwynn Park H.S.) Tilden Boudreaux (6'1, 185, WR, Port Arthur, Texas/Port Arthur Memorial H.S.) Jon Coles (6'2, 175, WR, Arlington, Texas/Bowie H.S.) Cleveland Collie (6'2, 285, OG/DT, Royal Palm

Beach, Fla./Royal Palm Beach H.S.)

Poliakoff Deliazard (6'1, 185, FS, Miami, Fla./Dr. Krop H.S.) Arnell Fontenot (5'11, 195, RB, Houston, Texas/Sam Houston H.S.) Marcus Franklin (5'10, 185, CB, La Marque, Texas/La Marque H.S.) Ronald Greene (6'1, 270, DL, Arlington, Texas/Sam Houston H.S.) Marquise Johnson (6'1, 215, TE/FB, Humble, Texas/Humble H.S.)

Paul Johnson (5'10, 190, SS, Houston, Texas/Westfield H.S.) Keith Mallory (6'1, 175, WR, Baltimore, MD/Woodlawn H.S.) Charles Miles (6'1, 190, LB, Dallas, Texas/W.W. Samuel H.S.) Hakeem Muhammed (5'10, 175, CB, Dallas, Texas/Skyline H.S.) Micah Rucker (5'10, 195, LB, Arlington, Texas/Sam Houston H.S.) Josiah Smith (6'5, 290, OT, Houston, Texas/C.E. King H.S.) Quinten Turner (6'2, 275, OG, Desoto, Texas/Desoto H.S.) Jeremy Waddy (5'9, 170, RB/KR, Missouri City, Texas/Elkins H.S.) Ryan Washington (6'1, 210, LB, La Marque, Texas/La Marque H.S.) Derrick Williams (6'2, 295, OL, Brandywine, MD/Gwynn Park H.S.)

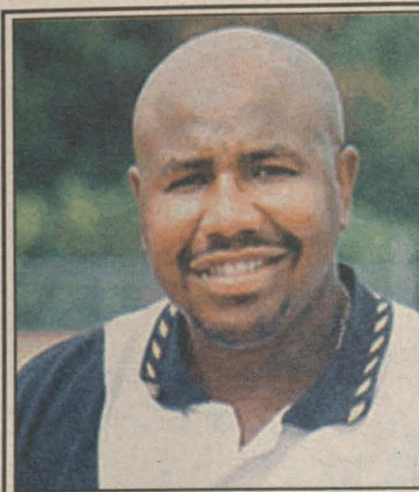


Photo by Stefam Robinson

Coach Frazier prepares for upcoming football season.

High hopes for Lady Panthers softball

By Lori Mason
Panther Staff

In the spring there are a few things people look forward to at Prairie View, like Springfest and the Texas Relays. The Lady Panther softball team is really looking forward to the upcoming season.

Coach Burgess and Coach Pete have done an excellent job in preparing the girls for the season. Even though the girls have barely had any field time due to the weather, they still managed to get all the practice time in the new gym.

Both coaches have high expectations from the young ladies this season. "All of the girls will be an excellent impact for the team," says

Coach Pete. All of the girls from the previous year turned out to be excellent leaders, snatching the number one position in the western conference of the SWAC.

The coaches say that the girls are self-disciplined; they set a goal and work hard for it. "This season's team definitely has the qualifications to win SWAC this year."

Last year the girls ranked number one in the western division of the SWAC, but the Southern University Lady Jaguars captured the SWAC title. The Lady Panthers believe that Southern will be their most difficult task of the season, yet they're assured they'll have no

problems beating other teams, at least not yet. However, they'll be keeping an eye open for the other teams in the SWAC, making sure that no team gets by easy.

Along with SU, the Lady Panthers are keeping an eye on Texas Southern, Alabama A&M, and Alabama State in the SWAC's east division.

"The way we're playing so far, we should win the SWAC with no excuses," said junior pitcher Trisha Anderson. "The team lost only two starters from the previous years, but are now graduate assistants, so it's like the team is still together, with two excellent players filling out their spots."

Third baseman Shakia Roberts, the team's lone senior, also expects a championship this year. "I think we'll do well and be SWAC champs because of our talent. We practice hard and we have an excellent coaching staff."

Defense and pitching are really strong. "We'll stay in the ball game with our defense, but we'll win games if we focus on our hitting," said Christina Reyes, junior first baseman.

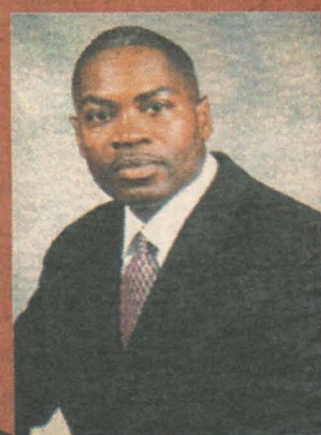
Other key performers include first team all conference outfielders Kimberly Hayden and Rosalin Ash, and SWAC pitcher of the year, Jamie Cain. District play begins next month.

VOTE



Gary Gates
For
House Of Representatives
District 28

Gary Gates is 44, a Businessman, Rancher, and Church Leader. Gary is married to his lovely wife Melisa Of 23years. Gary & Melissa have 13 beautiful children ranging in age from 9 to 22. Gary's family are members of Grace Community Bible Church. Gary has built successful companies by solving problems, while using that experience in managing the people's business. He currently owns 2,000+ apartment units, office buildings & a successful cattle business. Gary is truly a humble man at heart with a yearning zeal to uplift community & government. Gary being a community leader on all levels holds memberships in the Pregnancy Resource Board, Fraternal Order Of Classy Gentlemen: Sigma Rhomeo Inc., and a number of other organizations. Gary is "Taking the Texas HOME to the Texas HOUSE."



Jeron Barnett
For
Waller County Sheriff

Jeron Barnett is 40, a Law Enforcement Professional, Businessman, & Minister. Jeron is married to his beautiful wife Patricia, both are residents of Waller County, where they are active members in the City of Prairie View. Jeron is a father of four & attends Bailey Chapel Church Of God in Christ in Waller, TX., where he serves as a associate minister. He has served as a training officer, narcotics investigator, educator, certified instructor, and a certified crime prevention specialist in the Criminal Justice field for over 18 yrs. Jeron is also a United States Army Veteran and presently serves his country in the United States Navy Reserve. He is on the path to completing his degree in business management and plans to attend PVAMU next fall to earn his masters degree in juvenile justice. Jeron is a proud member of the Fraternal Order Of Classy Gentlemen: Sigma Rhomeo Inc. and a number of other orders.

"Providing Equal Law Enforcement Without Favor or Prejudice."

LET US
BE
ONE VOICE

2004

2004



Simeon L. Queen
For
County Commissioner
Precinct 8

Simeon L. Queen, 24, is a Businessman, Composer/Vocalist, Educator, and Licensed Minister. He holds a Bachelor Of Science in Criminal Justice, with a specialization in Juvenile Justice Systems, a Master Of Arts in Counseling, and is currently anticipating a Aug. 2004 graduation for his second masters of Arch. In Community Development from Prairie View A&M University. Simeon is the CEO/Founder of a fairly new faith-based non-profit by the name of God's Elite Ministries. The ministry specializes in Christian Counseling, Publishing/Promotion, Production, and Ministry Squads. He has a passion for edifying the community in economic development and spiritual awareness. Simeon, being a community/campus leader, holds membership in: Chi Sigma Iota [Professional Counseling Honor Society], O.M.M. [Order Of Made-Men], Fraternal Order Of Classy Gentlemen: Sigma Rhomeo Inc. and a number of other organizations. Simeon truly is a man of prayer who leads with a voice of integrity. "Follow Me, A Voice Of Integrity, Into The Promise Land"



John Allen Rogers
For
County Constable
Precinct 8

John Allen Rogers is 23, a Prairie View A&M University Student, Community Leader, and Assistant Pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. He was called into ministry in the year of 1995. John is currently a senior in the Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice program in which he will graduate in Aug. 2004. John is also a former SWAC Basketball Champion for the Prairie View A&M University Panthers. He is an active participant in the PVAMU Criminal Justice Club. John is a man that loves to help people & community in every positive way. John Allen Rogers will serve the community in securing a more positive environment through good law enforcement and community involvement.

John Allen Rogers
"A Warrior For The Community"

This week in black history

Nat "King" Cole

February 25th 1964, Nat King Cole, the singer with the "Golden Voice", dies.



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U.S. AIR FORCE
CROSS INTO THE BLUE

Forum from page 1

rights. He said at a time when students are sometimes accused of being disconnected and apathetic, Prairie View A&M University is sending a powerful message to the country. He said the statement students of this university made when they "walked out on that highway was so powerful, it got the attention of elected officials."

"Freedom and opportunity are privileges you have to guard with your life and we are here to help you do that," Cummings said.

Coleman said it's important to hear from students. He said the reason only 39 percent of Waller County voted in the last election is because people don't think politicians are listening to them nor do they think they are concerned about issues that affect them. He said he opts to use a "keep it real" approach when communicating with people because there is a communication gap between government officials and the citizens.

Rapper Q-Tip made an appearance with Rock the Vote and the Congressional Black Caucus, using his influence to motivate students to get involved. The former Tribe Called Quest member said he felt the Waller County District Attorney was "really arrogant" to think that he was going to try to intimidate a group of people who have a long history of having to fight for their rights.

"We're protected by your law to exercise our right to vote. We're not going to be intimidated by you," Q-Tip said. "So I'm here to lend my voice, because when you're right, and legally right then you can go on cause the Lord ain't gonna allow that. It's a justified fight."

Q-Tip said he joined Rock the Vote a month ago because this is a really important election, and he is the product of a dream, because he used his resources to overcome the adversity he was subjected to in the neighborhood where he grew up.

"When we speak about what's going on in the neighborhoods, like the lack of jobs, and we say we're gonna hustle or rob somebody, we get negative responses to a negative reality," Q-Tip said. "Hip-hop is

a voice that connects the idea of our political existence. So it's incumbent on me to come back, and one of my joys is to come back to black colleges, it makes me smile."

On Fee Deregulation

Fee deregulation is a law that says there is no cap on how much institutions can raise tuition.

Both state elected officials, Jackson-Lee and Coleman said they opposed tuition deregulation and Jackson-Lee said she opposed President Bush's budget that cuts federal financial aid and Pell grants. The Congressional Black Caucus is working together to write its own budget that will fully fund financial aid and Pell grants.

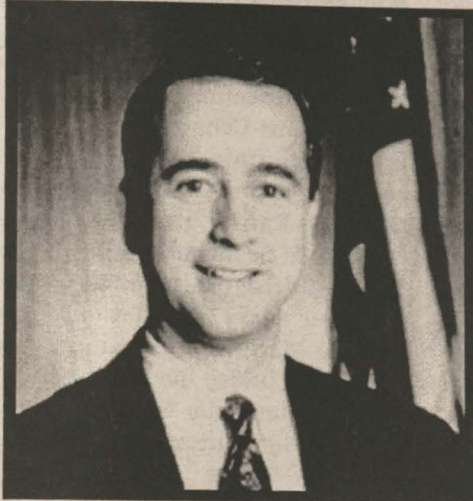
Ellis said he sits on a committee that oversees the Texas Grant program, which gives free tuition to students in financial need in Texas, but not enough money was being spent so it went back into the federal budget.

Turner said the reason tuition was being deregulated is because boards of regents, university presidents, and student leaders are in support of it. He said if students oppose fee deregulation, they should unite with other universities to address a committee of state House and Senate members who will meet in Austin on March 17, in record numbers "saying 'no' to an increase in fees."

On unemployment

Ellis said since the economy is so bad, if students want better jobs, they should go back to school, because a bachelor's degree is "simply not worth what it used to be."

Coleman, who represents the downtown, Third and Fourth Wards, Hobby Airport, and Montrose districts of Houston said if people want jobs they should, "go to the countries where the jobs are being exported."



John 
DEVINE
for CONGRESS

Republican - District 10 - Texas

Judge John Devine

has been honored and distinguished by numerous groups and organizations for his outstanding record of excellence and leadership in public office...

- **"Judge of the Year"**

"Police Officers Looking Into Judicial Excellence"

- **"Texas Size Hero"**

Citizen magazine - "Focus on the Family"

- **"Best Republican Surprise"**

Houston Press - 1995

John Devine, is a Texas leader who is a proud defender of the values which have made our country great. He received national acclaim as State District Judge, by refusing to remove a painting of the Ten Commandments from his courtroom and defeating a related lawsuit. He likewise received attention for his actions to hold local government accountable by ruling that taxpayers had a right under the law to vote on a proposal for funding a light rail system.

EARLY VOTING - February 23 - March 5
Election Day - March 9th

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Black History in the form of art

By Anterria Brown
Panther Staff

In honor of Black History Month an African American art exhibit was held Thursday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. in the public events room of the John B. Coleman Library.

The exhibit featured the artwork and viewpoints of noted African American artist Dean Mitchell. Mitchell is recognized as one of the finest painters in America. Mitchell is popular mainly for his universal themes of life, death, family, psychological, and spiritual revelations. Mitchell's paintings stem from people mainly his family and places that he has been

during his life. Mitchell gets his inspiration for his artwork from his love of people, landscape, and life in general.

Mitchell spoke to students followed by a slide show exhibiting artwork from his early years to his most recent works. Mitchell talked about his life growing up in Quincy, Fla., as well as his family, and mainly about what inspires him. Mitchell also motivated the crowd to take chances, to follow their dreams, and to believe that anything is possible. At the conclusion of his speech Mitchell opened the floor to students for a question and answer forum. Students were individually given the

opportunity to speak with the artist about his life and artwork.

"I found Mr. Mitchell's paintings to be incredible. I must admit I haven't always been a big fan of artwork, but after viewing his slide show and listening to him speak I was captivated by his images, how in-depth they were, and how they showed the beauty in all people, especially black people. He is an incredible artist and paints with a lot of emotion" said junior Stacy Kerr.

Mitchell has an extensive art exhibition history and his work has been featured at many notable places across the world

including the Hubbard Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Mississippi Art Museum, St. Louis Museum, Margaret Harwell Museum, and the Arkansas Art Center. His art is also contained in the corporate collections of Gannett Radio, Hallmark Cards Inc., Sears and Forbes Inc. He also has exhibits in the National Parks Foundation and the Martin Luther King Center. He is also the winner of the Water Color Society's 131st Annual International AWS Gold Medal.

When asked about the depth of his paintings and the success of his art career

Mitchell simply stated, "I don't paint for man or for money, I paint for the glory of God".

The art exhibit was sponsored by the John B. Coleman Library, and was coordinated by the visiting assistant professor of art Lauren Kelley. "I just wanted to showcase what our faculty, staff and members of the Prairie View community are doing, and I hope to bring more art shows to the campus. We need to introduce our students to a form of creativity that they may not otherwise encounter." said Kelley.

Party in the Bayou

By Albert Hughes
Panther Staff

The "murder capital of the world" hosted the final weekend of its annual street party and parade most commonly referred to as Mardi Gras this past weekend and brought excitement and good times to people from around the world. There were plenty of beads and drinks for people from across the nation in New Orleans as party goers of all ages and races flooded the downtown streets of "the big easy".

The Carnival Season is the official name for the period that begins on Jan. 6 and lasts up until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The French word 'Mardi Gras' was named for that day and translated into English means 'Fat Tuesday'. Most people label the final two or three weeks as Mardi Gras because they involve the most parades, parties and people.

On Friday visitors of the city flooded the highways and by-ways to make their way down to Bourbon and Canal Streets. Parking was "get in where you fit in" and most people parked on street sides and walked the rest of the way to the excitement. Once on Bourbon St.

participants in the celebration were absorbed into the massive crowd traveling on foot down the same narrow strip of pavement.

It was a human gumbo made up of people from all walks of life. From middle-aged white businessmen to young black females from Florida A&M, everyone was mixing, mingling and having a great time. Damon Wilson, an engineering major at Prairie View and a three-time New Orleans Mardi Gras participant said, "Every year that I come I have fun and it's a time where nobody is looking at race-they are just trying to enjoy the moment."

On Saturday from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. parades filled the streets. Many citizens and visitors got a chance to enjoy the weekend festivities with their families and had an acceptable time to share the excitement with the kids. The parades included floats, people dressed in costume throwing beads at the crowd, and plenty of entertainment.

When night fell it was time for the big kids to have fun again. Bourbon began to fill up, beads were getting exchanged for a second of slight nudity, and revealers

began to "get on that level."

Although police were fair in their treatment of tourists of the city they were not playing any games when it came to making arrests.

Several students from Prairie View attended and had a great time. "Man, it went down in the boot this past weekend. It was my first trip to New Orleans and it

definitely won't be my last," words spoken by Scuba Steve a criminal justice major.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO RESIDENTS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING EVENTS

- **Weekly** - Movie Night (every Wednesday) in Phase II Clubhouse from 7pm-9pm
- **Every Tues & Thur** - Tutoring (English & Math) Phase I Clubhouse 6pm-9pm.
- **Feb. 25** - Sexual Assault Seminar in Phase III Clubhouse from 7pm-9pm.
- **Feb. 26** - UV Scavenger Hunt. Beginning in Phase II Clubhouse at 7:00pm.

Prizes will be given away at all UV Programs....

IMPORTANT !!! LEASING/ACCOUNTING

- 2004-2005 Housing Application will be available Feb. 20.
- Rent is due the 1st of each month. There will be a \$25.00 late fee added if payment is submitted after the 5th and a \$75.00 late fee added after the 15th. (All delinquent residents will be asked to vacate their Apt).
- Utility bills are now due! Payments are now accepted at our Phase I Clubhouse.

* UV Barber shop is open Tuesday-Friday 10:00 am-10:00pm and Saturday 12:00 pm- 5:00 pm. (Monday only by appointment). If you have questions call "The Shop" at ext. 4029.

Texas A&M University System Internal Audit Department Conducting Campus Audits

Over the next 90 days, the Texas A&M University System Internal Audit Department will be conducting audits of several departments and colleges of Prairie View A&M University.

Every employee has a responsibility to help protect the assets and resources of the University. To accomplish this, we encourage each employee to report factual information of unethical, dishonest or illegal activities and/or practices that might impact Prairie View A&M University. These activities and/or practices include, but are not limited to, theft, corruption, contract and procurement fraud, asset misappropriation, or misuse of state resources.

To anonymously report suspected fraud or abuse, contact the Texas A&M University System Internal Audit Department at (888) 501-3850 or (979) 458-7115 or via the Internet at <http://sago.tamu.edu/iaudit> and click on the "Report Fraud" link.

Black History Month February 1st - February 29th

In celebration of Black History Month, Miss Prairie View A&M University, along with the Department of Student Activities & Leadership, sponsors a "Black History Month" Trivia. The first student to correctly answer the following questions will receive a "PVAMU Gift Pak". Submit the correct answers to Dept. of Student Activities & Leadership, Memorial Student Center, RM 221 with the student's name and local phone number. **Deadline: Friday, February 27, 2004.**

1. In 1904, this pioneer in education opened a small Florida school for black children that developed in to a well-known college. Who is she?
2. Which black singer/actress won a Tony in 2000?
3. What singer was known as "*The Empress of the Blues*"?
4. She led so many slaves to freedom that she came to be known as "the Moses of Her People." What was her real name?
5. Who was the 1st black woman ever to serve in the U.S. Congress?
6. Name the abolitionist whose "*Ain't I a Woman?*" speech silenced hecklers at the National Women's Suffrage Convention?
7. Crippled as a child, she became the 1st black woman to win three gold medals in one Olympiad. Who is she?
8. Who was the 1st black woman overseas correspondent and which war did she cover?
9. Who was the 1st black woman Brigadier General in the regular Army?
10. What Southern city was the first to have an institution of higher education for black women and what was the name of the institution?

Today in Black History

1870- *Hirman R. Revels of Mississippi sworn in as first black U.S. Senator and first black representative in Congress*

1948- *Martin Luther King, Jr. ordained as Baptist minister*

1964- *Muhammad Ali defeated Sonny Liston for the World heavyweight boxing championship*

1. Who knew that the Alphas could be so cute and not know how to spell?
2. What's wrong with University Drive?
3. Shouldn't the Black and Gold pageant contestants have been on the same fitness regimen as the Alphas?
4. Is U.C. officially an organization?
5. Can they get kicked off the yard for hazing too?
6. Do we really need an electrical engineering building, or more parking?
7. Who went to the forum to recite poetry?
8. Who was flying kites in Phase III?
9. Who's actually going to tryout for the cheerleading squad?
10. Which elected official looked like Colonel Sanders?
11. Who knew that T-town was back to hip-hop on Friday nights?
12. Whose idea was it to have a food fight while BET was taping?
13. What was Hines doing in the MSC parking lot?
14. Can someone get our Sigmas a meal plan?
15. Why were the beginning (Alphas) and the end (Omegas) the only Greeks at the forum?
16. Where were the DSTs and the Ks?
17. Weren't you mad that you couldn't park at the MSC?
18. If the police cars haven't been painted yet, should we pull over when they stop us?
19. Does anyone ever eat the amount of food paid for by their meal plan?
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. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther

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