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The Panther

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Volume 85, Issue 26

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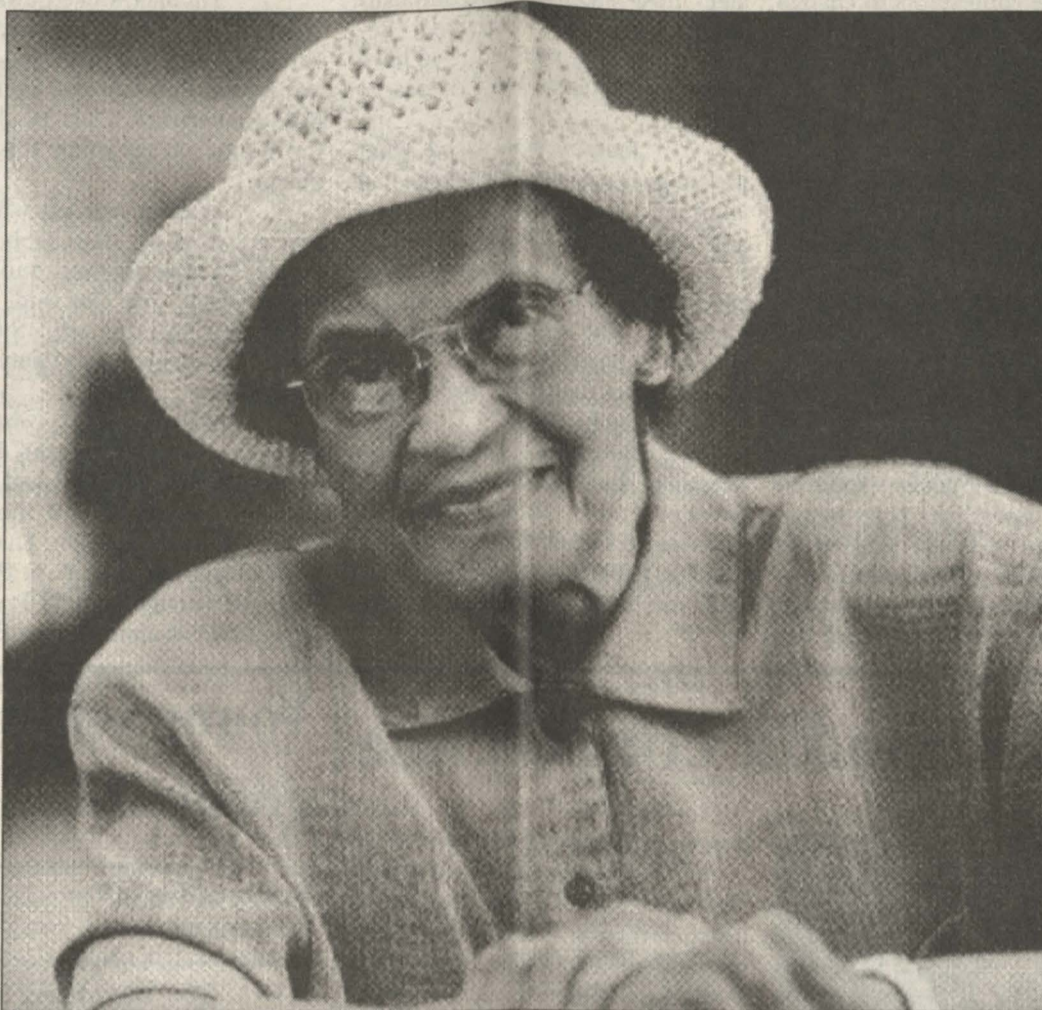
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Prairie View mourns loss of longtime employee



Courtesy of Campus Announcements

Leaving a legacy: Taylor leaves a legacy of 62 years of service to PVAMU.

By Jameka Merriweather
Editor in chief

Prairie View A&M University lost one of its longtime employees, Jimmizine Beth Taylor, Friday, March 28 following a lengthy illness.

Taylor, 88, passed away in the Tom-

ball Regional Hospital after serving 62 years with the university.

Taylor began her career in 1946 as a librarian. She served as a reference librarian as well as a special collections librarian.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science from Arkansas State (Pine Bluff) and a library science degree from

Atlanta University.

"She was always willing to help. She was a servant to whoever needed help when it came to the library. When it came to student workers, she was willing to extend herself on a personal level. Guess it was a little mothering involved," said Phyllis Earles, university archivist.

Taylor was born in Little Rock, Ark. on August 12, 1919. She was raised by her uncle and aunt, Robert and Lottie Beth.

An active member of St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Prairie View, Taylor was also active in many community organizations.

She was a member of the Zeta Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Prairie View Athletic Club, the Texas Library Association, and the American Library Association.

While at the university, Taylor wore many hats. She served on several committees including the Homecoming, Historical and the Naming of Buildings committees.

"I know she cared. She cared for the students of Prairie View. She loved P.V.," said close friend Frederick Roberts. "She was always encouraging you to do better. She would help you in any way she could," Roberts continued.

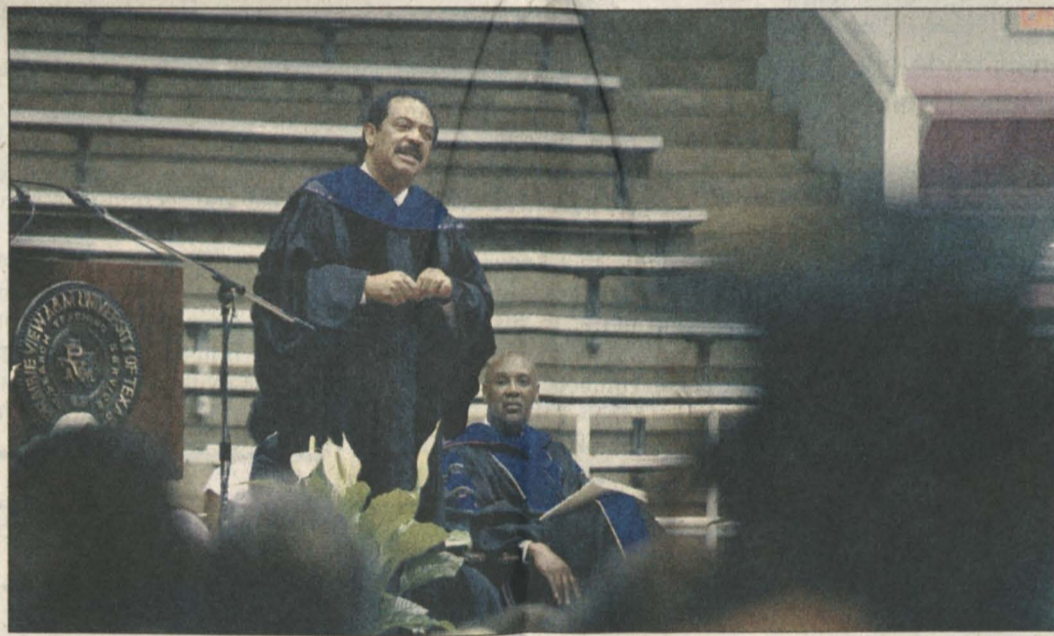
Roberts said, "Once, she trusted you and felt you respected her, she was there to the end. She will be greatly missed."

There will be a memorial service on April 4 in the Johnson Phillip All Faiths Chapel at 3 p.m. followed by a wake and viewing from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The members of the Zeta Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha will conduct its Ivy Beyond the Wall Service at 7:45 p.m.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 5, at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Prairie View at 11 a.m.

Honors convocation 'transitions to new heights'



By Evan White, The Panther

Soar like an eagle: Founders' Day and Honors Recognition Convocation encourage students to reach new heights and achieve academic excellence.

By Dana Polk
Panther Staff

The College of Engineering hosted this year's Founder's Day and Honors Recognition Convocation, March 26 in the William "Billy" J. Nicks Fieldhouse.

This event is a celebration of university legacy and recognizes students who continue building upon that legacy by meeting the challenges of their future.

"Transitioning to New Heights," was the theme for this year's ceremony.

The program featured a timeline of the institution's former principals and presidents, leading to current president Dr. George C. Wright. The program also included the history of Prairie View A&M University and how it has transitioned to new heights.

Mary Bolden, a sophomore early childhood education major, said, "After attending this year's honors convocation, I realize that each student must possess tradition, legacy, and the academic standards of the university."

One hundred years ago Prairie View was known mostly as an agricultural school and offered few majors.

The university had its beginning in the Texas Constitution of 1876 which, in separate articles, established an "Agricultural and Mechanical College" and pledged that "separate schools shall be provided for the white and colored children, and impartial provisions shall be made for both."

As a consequence of these constitutional provisions, the 15th legislature established "Alta Vista Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth" on August 14, 1876.

Now there are many majors for students to choose from, including communications, architecture, education and nursing.

"Today, to be well educated, you must be prepared to meet unprecedented challenges with a solid education," said Lee McGriggs, professor of political science.

James C. Mitchell, CEO of SMP Enterprises, addressed the convocation. He encouraged students to be committed to the university and make financial contributions.

Mitchell also talked about the importance of giving back in terms of service, and informing the public about the university after graduation.

Mitchell said graduate students should recruit the best and the brightest.

He added that undergraduate students must live and perform according to the institution's motto, "Prairie View Produces Productive People."

"I believe attending the ceremony encouraged our potential as honor students to sustain our academic standing," Kenneth Marshall, a sophomore computer engineering technology major, said.

Drawing on the theme of transition, the convocation focused attention on contributing to the university.

"The purpose of the convocation is to look back to greatness and look forward to our challenges," McGriggs said.

Student dies in car accident

By Ashley Slayton
News Editor

Jacques "Timmy" Barber, a 21-year-old education major from Dallas, died in an automobile accident Sunday night.

According to the Waco Tribune-Herald, Barber died after the vehicle he was driving collided with a 1985 Chevrolet pickup on State Highway 6, north of Calvert.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Loved by many who knew him, Barber was known for his upbeat nature, light spirit and smile.

"Jacques 'Timmy' Barber was like family to me," said Devan Jones, alumnus and close friend of Barber.

"You almost never saw him in a bad mood. If I needed a place to stay or something to eat, he never hesitated to open his home to me."

Jones said he admired Barber's perseverance and his determination.

"He will always be missed but he will forever be in the hearts of those who love him," Jones said.

Barber, who enrolled at Prairie View in 2004, was a member of the university band, The Marching Storm.

James Douglas Lott, a junior computer engineering major and friend of Barber, said he enjoyed the time they spent together, often watching Norbit, a favorite movie of Barber's.

Lott recalled Barber's favorite part of the movie as he spoke about his friend.

"He'll be in my heart...Tuesday, Tuesday, Tuesday," he said.

A candlelight vigil was held Tuesday night on the campus in honor of Barber.

SGA election results

Presidential Candidates	Votes
James Durant	364
Johnnie L. Jones III	312
Jemiah Richards	211
Vice President	Votes
Kenneth Grimes	483
Alena Savoie	386
Comptroller	Votes
Kameron Whitfield	833

There will be a run off between James Durant and Johnnie L. Jones III on April 8.

Miss Jabberwock 2008 scholarship pageant

By Jaqueline Sadberry
Panther Staff

Family and friends came out in support of the Miss Jabberwock 2008 Scholarship Pageant for graduating high school seniors hosted by the Eta Beta chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Friday night in the Nathleyne Archie Kennedy architecture building.

Contestants Ke'Erica Vanduren, Lakendrea Jackson, Kourtnei Thomas, and Glorie Holloway, all from Waller High School, competed for the scholarship. Thomas won the first place prize of \$500, the second place prize was \$250 won by Jackson.

The Miss Jabberwock pageant is an event sponsored by the organization. Dr. Bernadine Duncan, the primary advisor, said that in choosing Miss Jabberwock they look for, "Someone who is goal oriented, articulate, and possesses a high level of self esteem and she must exemplify leadership skills."

The four ladies began the

introduction by performing a dance, after which they told the audience their names, ages, classifications, and their pageant number. Contestant number one was Vanduren, next up was Jackson, followed by Thomas, and finally Holloway. After the introduction, there was a short break for the contestants to change into their active wear, which was based on the sports they participate in.

After the active wear segment, the girls showed off their talents. Vanduren praise danced to the Mary Mary song Shackles. Jackson did a little country singing to a Carrie Underwood song. Both Thomas and Holloway danced on stage; Thomas dancing to Face Off, and Holloway performing to a track from the new Day 26 album.

During the next part of the pageant, the participants were asked about career goals. Vanduren planned on becoming a Navy nurse, and Jackson said she wanted to go into nursing. Thomas said she wanted to be a medical assistant in the Navy, and Holloway said her

goal was to become a professional singer.

Then came the introduction of judges Randy Hines, Jerome Gant, and Dean Lewter, and the formal wear segment, followed by the question and answer segment.

Vanduren was asked what her most significant accomplishment was to which she replied, "Becoming an early graduate. You have so many obstacles and I overcame them all."

Jackson was asked what recent goal accomplishment she had attained. She replied, "Obtaining a job while in high school."

Thomas was asked what she had gained while being in the pageant. She replied that by being in the pageant, she had gained, "Confidence, discipline, and a higher level of self-esteem."

Holloway's question was whether she considered herself a giver or a taker. Holloway said she considered herself a giver and that, "Seeing people smile and knowing that you put it there is the best gift of all."

Lastly was the distribution of awards and the crowning. Holloway was awarded "Ms. Congeniality," Vanduren won "Most Improved," Jackson got two awards; one for "Best Business Attire" and another for "Best Question and Answer."

Thomas walked away with "Best Talent," "Best Formal," "Best Athletic," and was crowned as the 2008 Miss Jabberwock. Last year's Miss Jabberwock, Clara Walker had the honor of crowning this year's queen.

Walker recalled when she was crowned as Miss Jabberwock, saying, "I was shocked and happy when I won." She also said, "It was interesting working with the other girls. It gave me a good networking opportunity."

When asked what she thought about the pageant, Jackson said, "It was very fun. I had a lot of fun with the girls and it taught me a lot." Brittany Jackson, Lakendrea Jackson's sister from Sam Houston State University, said, "I loved this pageant. It was nice seeing the girls



By Evan White, The Panther

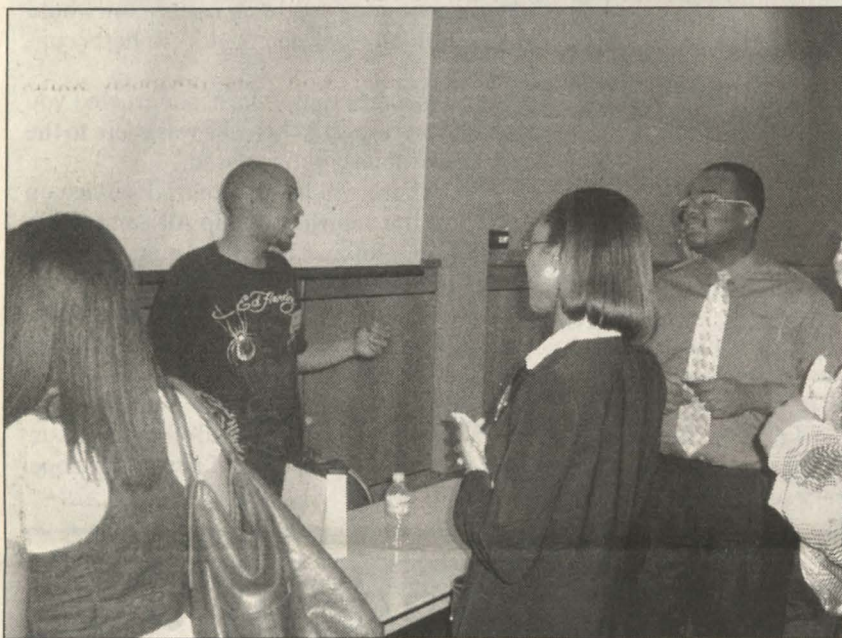
Miss Jabberwock 2008:
Kourtnei Thomas crowned.

turn into beautiful women."

Thomas was overjoyed about winning the pageant, saying, "It feels amazing." Thomas also attested to the benefits of pageantry.

"I've broken out of my shell and have gained more self confidence," she said.

Stars show out for media conference



Courtesy of Asheli Atkins

Fast track to success: Media professionals trade tips and business cards with students at the 2008 Media Conference.

By Dontae McCray
Panther Staff

Sigma Tau Theta hosted its second annual media conference Tuesday, April 1, in the Willie Albert Tempton Memorial Student Center ballroom.

The event was separated into a session for journalism and public relations and another for radio, television, music, and sports entertainment.

The journalism session featured Tracy Ferguson, editor of the Houston based Jones Magazine, Jeff Sauls of Toastmasters International, and Bryce Kennard, public relations specialist at Prairie View A&M University.

The second session featured film makers Brandon Allen and Daniel Malveaux of 3 Points Entertainment, Byron Lundy of 4tion Entertainment, Kareem Chapman; CEO of Plug Entertainment and rapper T.I.'s assistant, and Cynthia Co-

per who is currently Prairie View's head women's basketball coach.

The conference showcased members of the media and students got direct contact with professionals working in their desired fields.

The panelists were very accessible to students and the students were able to ask questions in the question and answer sessions as a group and they were allotted time for more personal one on one sessions for students to further their knowledge in the communications field.

Ferguson and other panelists discussed how important it is for the students to research their field of interest whether it is print, television, or radio and know everything possible there is to know about it.

When it came to advice for writers Ferguson said, "As a writer it's all about being versatile and having published work."

The panelists discussed what to expect in their respective fields and what type of situations

young professionals will face.

Chapman told the students that they have to stay focused on their particular career paths. Cooper added, "You'll never make it by second guessing yourself."

Chapman felt that having events like the conference were important.

"It's a part of giving back, I wish I had a panel of the field I was interested in in college to talk to me and help make career decisions," said Chapman.

The panelists from each session emphasized to the students to get experience through involvement in school and internships to better their resume.

Allen added that aspiring film makers could even enter their projects into festivals at cheaper prices because they were students.

Lundy mentioned that as African Americans in the communications field they have to work harder than everybody.

"We have to be 150 percent better than what the others are," he said, adding that knowing the culture of an industry is important and pointing out that in this business it's all about who you know and following up on contacts.

Asheli Atkins, Sigma Tau Theta event planner said she was pleased with the turnout.

"I'm happy that the panelists were willing to come down to Prairie View and share their knowledge with students who want to learn," Atkins said.

Atkins mentioned that their second annual event has been a step up from the previous conference.

Atkins hoped the event would continue to progress each year.

"We do it for students interested in communications because the career fairs here at Prairie View fail to cater to the needs of communication students," Atkins said.

Workshop builds unity among female students

By Whitney Harris
Panther Staff

Prairie View A&M University celebrated Women's History Month through various events around the campus. On March 26 in the Alvin I. Thomas Building, young women joined together to evaluate their friendships in the workshop, "Healthy Relationships with My Sisters."

Facilitating the event was First Lady of The Church Without Walls Sheretta West. As the women's leader at her church, West often hosts similar events for others. West said her passion is women and their being empowered. The workshop opened as women, young and old, reminisced on sitcom theme songs about friendships.

"Everyone singing the

theme song to Girlfriends and Golden Girls was pretty cool. It was a good way for everyone to relax," said sophomore Lorell Williams.

West pointed out that the objective of the workshop is to evaluate the importance of friendship and that there's a necessity for developing nurturing and wholesome sister relationships.

"It's important to have relationships with sisters," said senior Brandolyn Pope. "I learned about people and what they bring to the table. It's about accepting who they are and not judging them."

One important quote by Aristotle that West emphasized was "A friend is a single soul dwelling in two bodies." The two must be connected mentally to have a long lasting and successful relationship. West said that both must set aside judgment and personal issues and be entirely open with each other.

"When we close ourselves to people, we build a wall. Not only do we keep people out but we also close ourselves in," said West.

West also pointed out that men and women have friendships for different reasons. Men need them simply for conversation and so that they can have a buddy to fish with or whatever. Women on the other hand, according to West, like to share and communicate. They like to have friends that are good listeners.

The workshop opened the eyes of many of the women in the audience to who their true friends are, and what type of friend they themselves were.

"I really enjoyed the workshop. It was good for me to stop and actually be honest with myself about my friendships. I might need to evaluate some of them," said Williams.

Young scholars' mixer promotes graduate enrollment in English

By Sean Mitchell
Panther Staff

The Department of Languages and Communications held the Young Scholars' Mixer orientation for prospective students interested in enrolling in the English graduate program, in John B. Coleman Library Monday, March 31.

Nearly all professors involved with the English program, including host Dr. Diljit Chatha, Dr. Sarah Wakefield, Dr. Tonya M. Scott, Dr. James Palmer, Dr. Robert Kirschten, Dr. Dejun Liu, head of the Department of Languages and Communications, spoke about the school's qualifications highlighting the beneficial factors of the post graduate program.

Also speaking during the program were PVAMU Associate Provost Dr. Michael McFrazier, graduate school dean Dr. William H. Parker and recruiter Amparo Navarette.

The English graduate program, which currently has eight students, most of whom are non-traditional, is in the process of expanding the curriculum offered so students may be better educated. They also

provide a variety of subjects for students to study and use.

"Although our program is small it's strong because it's intellectually challenging and competitive," said Scott who also stated that although professors do not mind working one on one with students given the small size of the program, the growth of the program was exciting, a sentiment echoed by Palmer.

"As graduate student Jennifer Jacks noted today, our MA in English is appealing because the program offers small, interactive graduate courses by faculty who care deeply about graduating highly qualified educators and candidates who will eventually pursue the Ph.D.," he said.

"In spite of our size, we're able to offer a curriculum emphasizing the breadth and depth of knowledge in the English Language Arts today that rivals larger university programs, and we're quite proud of that accomplishment," Palmer added.

The minimum GPA of 2.7 is required for acceptance into the program. Application deadlines are July 1 for fall semester registration, Nov. 1 for spring semester registration and March 1 for summer.

Campus team falls short in Honda Campus All-Star Quiz Challenge

By Jerrell Allen
Online Editor

Students from Prairie View traveled to Orlando, Fla., last Thursday to compete in the annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge trivia competition. The contest pits students from HBCUs around the country against one another in a battle of the minds.

Prairie View was selected to be a part of the "Strong 64," the designation for schools which qualified to compete earlier this year.

Though the Prairie View team managed to best all of its opponents in the preliminary round robin competition and qualified as one of the "Sweet 16" teams, the players faltered as playoffs began and were knocked out of the competition during the first round in a close game against SWAC rival Grambling State University.

The students selected came from different fields of study. Cedric Wilson, a biology major who was the team captain, competed last year with Hampton University. Other players included Carlton Singleton, a pre-med student who majors in biology and political science, Dejuan Hall, an architecture major, Jerrell Allen, an English major, and Jonathan Gholston, a marketing major. The team is coached by Herbert Thomas of Career Services.

Because Prairie View's team qualified for playoff rounds, the university was awarded \$5,000

in grants from the competition. The largest grant, which was awarded to 2008 National Champions Oakwood University, is \$50,000. For placing in the top 16 participating schools, members of Prairie View's team will be featured in the April 10th edition of USA Today magazine in a two page spread.

Gholston said, "Orlando was a great experience, especially being the only freshman on the team was difficult. We accomplished what we wanted to do by going 7-0 in our room, but we wanted to go farther. Competing isn't as easy as it sounds, you have to think quickly and have good recall."

The 7-0 refers to Prairie View's record in the round robin competition, in which Prairie View defeated all of its opponents by a margin of no less than 140 points.

The Honda Campus All-Star Challenge is administered by College Bowl and is sponsored every year by the Honda Motor Company. The program started in 1989 when Honda proposed a program to the College Bowl Company for Black colleges.

The competition is a general academic trivia bowl which mostly focuses on the sciences, literature, sports, American and world politics, popular culture, and black history. The current format was adopted in 1996, which abandoned the sectional games and the televising of games in favor of an all-encompassing 64-team National Championship Tournament held each year in March or April.

Maya Angelou stands by Hillary Clinton

By Hillel Italie
Ap National Writer

NEW YORK (AP)- Like millions of others who watched, or read, Sen. Barack Obama's speech on race, Maya Angelou was deeply moved, calling it "fantastic" and "historic."

But she remains a supporter of Obama's rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, whom Angelou has known since Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas, in the 1980s.

"I promised myself that 20 years after seeing her passion and courage (as first lady of Arkansas) that if she ever runs for anything, I'm going to support her," the author, who spent part of her childhood in

Arkansas, told The Associated Press during a recent interview.

Angelou has a long history of political activism, dating back to the civil rights era when she worked with Malcolm X and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and she has contributed money to numerous campaigns, including Hillary Clinton's first run for the Senate in New York in 2000, and former President Clinton's re-election race in 1996.

Angelou, who turns 80 on April 4, played a brief, but memorable role in Bill Clinton's first presidential run. The poem she read at his 1993 inauguration, "On the Pulse of the Morning," was an instant sensation that became a million seller when published in book form.

She was already widely known as the author of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," a coming-of-

age memoir that is standard reading at schools.

Although committed to Hillary Clinton, Angelou says she would be happy to see Obama become president—especially after the March 18 speech prompted by his former pastor's racial statements.

Obama, a Democrat from Illinois, called upon the nation to break "a racial stalemate we've been stuck in for years."

"It was fantastic. It was historic," she says. "I have had people calling me from all over, some of whom said that it's going to be compared to (King's) 'I Have a Dream,' because of what it says about race in the United States."

"The truth is, if Sen. Clinton didn't have such a worthy adversary, she wouldn't be challenged."

Obama leads in ongoing tally of Texas caucus results

By Kelley Shannon
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP)- The contest between Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton for Texas delegates appeared to be tightening, as counting from Saturday's caucuses dragged on into Sunday.

Obama led Clinton 58 percent-42 percent in results that had been reported through Sunday night, but nearly half of the del-

egates had yet to be counted.

Obama's campaign predicted he would win the overall delegate race in Texas because of caucus support, even though Clinton narrowly won the popular vote in primary balloting March 4.

Clinton's campaign trumpeted its caucus successes in predominantly Hispanic regions along the Texas-Mexico border, as well as in South Texas and in rural counties.

"We continue to be grateful to the enthusiastic support Hill-

ary continues to receive throughout the Lone Star State," said Clinton state chairman Garry Mauro.

Obama's camp accused Clinton's of aggressively pushing to challenge and disqualify Obama delegates based on technicalities.

"Despite the Clinton campaign's widespread attempts to prevent many Texans from participating in their district convention, the voters of Texas confirmed Senator Obama's important delegate win in the Lone Star State," said Obama spokesman Josh Earnest.

Houston police question girl, 14, after finding dead fetus in airliner restroom

HOUSTON (AP)- A 14-year-old girl on a return flight from a school trip delivered a stillborn fetus in the bathroom of an airplane and disposed of it in a waste bin, police said Monday.

The girl, whom police did not identify, said she didn't know she had been pregnant. Preliminary autopsy results indicated the fetus was stillborn and not viable, police said.

"We're dealing with a scared child at this point," investigator Keith Lovelace said.

Police were called to Bush Intercontinental Airport after a cleaning crew found the fetus in a wastebasket in the bathroom about 15 minutes after the Continental Airlines plane landed Sunday after-

noon. The Boeing 737 had come from New York's LaGuardia Airport. The plane, which was about 30 minutes late, carried 144 passengers and six crew members.

Police Sgt. Ryan Chandler said results of the investigation would be turned over to prosecutors "to decide whether or not they're going to file any criminal charges."

Houston police are involved because the fetus was discovered within the city limits.

A report from the medical examiner's office was not expected before Tuesday.

Julie King, a spokeswoman for Houston-based Continental Airlines, declined to comment Monday.

Rusty Yates, whose 1st wife drowned their 5 children in Texas, has son with new wife

HOUSTON (AP)- Rusty Yates, whose first wife drowned their five children, has started a new family.

Yates said Monday that his second wife, Laura, gave birth to a son March 20.

"He's doing well," Yates said, declining to disclose the child's name. "I'm happy."

The couple wed in March 2006, a year after he divorced his first wife, Andrea, who is in a state mental institution.

Andrea Yates drowned the couple's five children—ages 6 months to 7 years—in June 2001 at the family's home near NASA's Johnson Space Center, where Yates works as an engineer.

She said she was trying to

save them from the devil; she was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison in 2002.

But an appeals court in 2005 overturned her conviction because of erroneous testimony. Andrea Yates was then found innocent by reason of insanity in July 2006 and sent to the institution.

"She's at peace with it," George Parnham, Andrea Yates' lawyer, said. "She obviously wants Rusty to carry on....She wants only the best for Rusty's new family."

Parnham said he sees Yates frequently and described her as "doing well."

"She's adapted so well to the realization that she has a mental illness and that she has to take her medication," he said.

Vote Sylvia Cedillo - Democratic Runoff Election

Waller County Commissioner, Precinct 3

"Thanks for your support on March 4th. Now let's finish the job!"

-Sylvia Cedillo

VOTING SCHEDULE

Early Vote: Thurs., April 3 and Fri., April 4, 2008

7am - 7pm

Waller County Community Center, Prairie View. (Rides from MSC)

ELECTION DAY: Tuesday, April 8, 2008

7am - 7pm

All regular polling places open. (Rides from MSC)



Founder & Director, The PEACE Project (2000 - 2006)
(PVAMU's first domestic violence/sexual assault prevention program)
Long-time Student Rights Advocate for equal rights
Attorney, "Save Jones Elementary" lawsuit

Pol. Ad. paid by Sylvia Cedillo, Treas., POB 416, Praire View, Texas 77446

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



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FINANCIAL AID ALERT!!!

What Students Should Know?

Summer 2008 Financial Aid Awards

As many students prepare to select classes for the summer 2008 semester, please remember the following information.

- ✓ You must pre-register before financial aid is awarded.
- ✓ Your award will primarily consist of aid you did not utilize during the 2007 fall and 2008 spring semesters.

Note: This change in procedure will allow us to accurately measure Satisfactory Academic Progress and award students that are academically eligible for financial aid.

- ✓ Financial aid awards for the summer semester will not be calculated until the conclusion of the spring 2008 semester and all grades are submitted by the University faculty. Students can expect financial awards to be available beginning **May 15, 2008**
- ✓ Students identified **NOT MEETING** the University's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy will have to appeal the decision by completing the 2009-2009 Satisfactory Academic Progress Form. This form can be located on our "On-line Forms" page at <http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/1950.asp>.
- ✓ Financial Aid Counselors **WILL NOT** award Federal PLUS, Grad PLUS, or Alternative (Private) student loans until the financial aid office receives notice from your lender that financial aid recipient's/parent credit has been approved.

Mandatory Financial Literacy Counseling

Beginning fall 2008, before financial aid (i.e. scholarships, state aid, waivers, and federal aid) is awarded; financial aid recipients at Prairie View A&M University **ARE REQUIRED** to complete the web-based USA Funds "Life Skills" financial literacy modules each year. Please follow the instruction listed below:

- ✓ Go to www.pvamu.edu/faid;
- ✓ Go to the "Financial Literacy Program" section.
- ✓ Click on your classification for fall 2008.
Example: If you are scheduled to be a junior beginning fall 2008 then you will click on "Undergraduates".
- ✓ Below the LOGIN button, click on "New User? Please Register"
- ✓ Provide the necessary demographic information;
- ✓ Select appropriate classification for fall 2008
- ✓ Please remember, before the AWARD HOLD is removed, you **MUST COMPLETE ALL** of the modules associated with your classification.

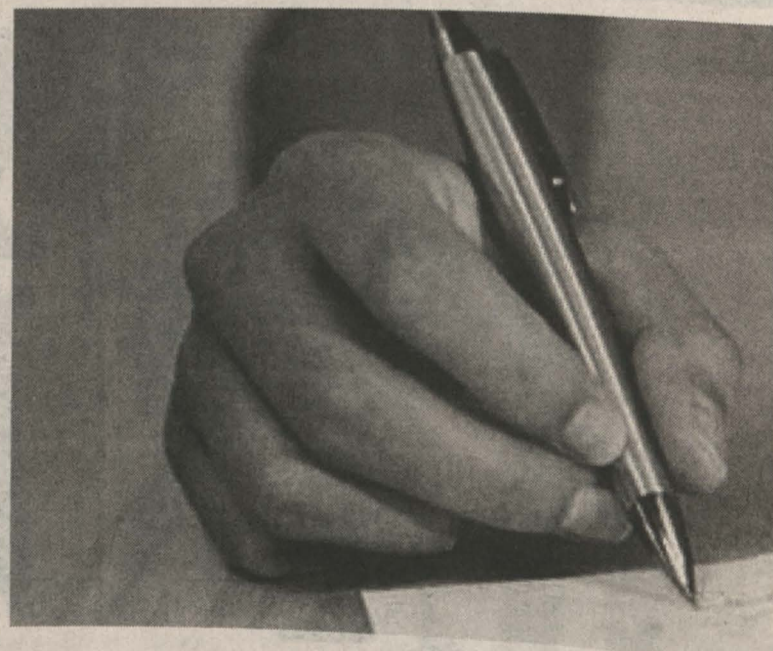
Lenders Exiting The Student Loan Programs

- ✓ The following lenders have notified us that they will no longer participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).
 - ✓ Acapit
 - ✓ Academic Finance Corporation
 - ✓ Ardent Financial
 - ✓ American Education Services (AES)/PHEAA
 - ✓ Bankers Trust
 - ✓ Boeing Credit Union
 - ✓ Brazos (in-house organizations)
 - ✓ Capital One /Axiom
 - ✓ Citizen Bank of Sealy
 - ✓ College Board
 - ✓ College Loan Corporation (CLC)
 - ✓ Collegiate Solutions
 - ✓ Comerica
 - ✓ Education Funding Services Inc. (EFSI)
 - ✓ Federal Student Loan Solutions
 - ✓ FinanSure
 - ✓ First Niagra Bank
 - ✓ Goal Financial
 - ✓ Graduate Leverage
 - ✓ HSBC
 - ✓ Independent Bankers Bank
 - ✓ K2 Student Loan Solutions
 - ✓ Kansas State Bank of Manhattan
 - ✓ Loanster Financial Group LLC
 - ✓ M&T Bank
 - ✓ National Education
 - ✓ National Student Loan Group
 - ✓ Nelnet
 - ✓ NextStudent
 - ✓ Security Bank of Kansas City
 - ✓ Sovereign Bank
 - ✓ Spokane Teachers Credit Union
 - ✓ Student Capital Corporation
 - ✓ TCF Bank
 - ✓ TD Banknorth
 - ✓ Urban Ed Express
 - ✓ West Des Moines State Bank
 - ✓ Zions Bank

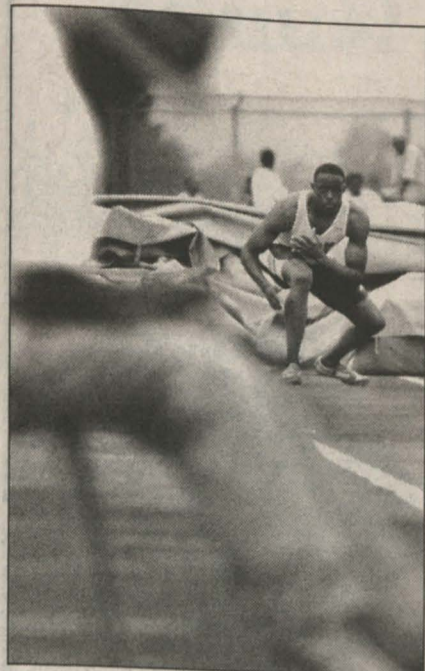
Students that utilized these lenders during the 2007-2008 academic year will need to e-sign a new promissory note with a new lender for the upcoming year (2008-2009) via our Lender Comparison Gateway at www.salliemae.com/pvamu.

Attention!!!

Get Ready Fall 2008
Complete & File Your Free
Application for Federal Student
Aid (FAFSA)



Track teams take title at PV relays



By Evan White, The Panther



By Evan White, The Panther



By Evan White, The Panther

Prairie View team continues to leave the track on fire.

By David Butler
L&H/A&E Editor

The 79th Annual Hoover Wright-Barbara Jacket Prairie View Relays took place at Blackhear Stadium March 29, with the men and women teams performing well as they prepared for Texas Relays.

Seven high school and five university teams participated this year, and in the perfect setting of the Panther home crowd, the men's

team took first place in all but three events. In that, the athletes put up solid numbers for the middle of outdoor season.

In the sprint races, Chris Taylor won the 110m dash with a time of 10.61 and Jarryd Gray took second place in the 200m dash with a 22.22. The mid-distance and hurdle races belonged to PV, as Daniel Anderson and Tyrown Russell capitalized in the 400m and 800m races, running a 48.33 and 1:54.34 respectively. Jason Mitchell also won the hurdle races, the

110m high hurdles and the 400m intermediate, by running a 14.19 and 54.19.

The 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams that consisted of runners who will most likely perform in Austin this weekend took first place as well by running a 41.67 and 3:18.09.

Assistant coach Chris Clay was pleased with the team's performances, and knows that since many of the athletes performed their best individual performances, it will help the relay teams as a whole for the meets to come.

The women had a first place tie with Texas Southern.

Shonteria Johnson won both of the sprint races with times of 12.60 and 25.50. LaQuita Alexander and Yolanda Chatmon finished in first place in the mid-distance races, with times of 56.86 and 2:27.78 respectively. In the 100m hurdles Rhonda Tucker won in nice fashion with a time of 14.18.

Both teams plan to make a stellar showing in Austin this weekend, April 3-5, for the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays at the University of Texas.

Panthers avoid a weekend sweep

By Lionel Mosby
Panther Staff

The Prairie View A&M Panthers (13-15, 7-5) avoided a three-game weekend sweep by defeating the Southern Jaguars, 6-2 in Baton Rouge, La., Sunday.

The team was led by pitcher Wrandal Taylor who struck out six batters in his complete game, as he was helped defensively with solid play from the Panthers. The team was error free and put the ball into play. The first run came in the third inning from a Myrio Richard RBI double. In the fourth inning, two runs followed that gave the Panthers the immediate lead, and as the game continued the Panthers' lead grew while Southern remained stagnant.

In the sixth, smart baseball

and quick thinking led to the Panthers' win with three insurance runs that put the win in the bag.

The two games on Saturday were won by Southern, 3-6 and 2-4. In the first game, Southern (10-10, 8-4) jumped out to a two run lead in the first inning from a homerun and RBI single. The Panthers fought back in the top of the sixth inning, scoring three runs to take the lead. All in the same inning, the Jaguars bounced back to tax the Panthers for four runs which closed out the game.

In the second contest, the score was tight at two in the second inning until the Jaguars scored one run each in the fifth and sixth inning.

The Panthers now prepare for another conference three game road trip against UAPB April 4 and 5 in Pine Bluff, Ark. at 1 p.m.

Softball experiences ups and downs

By Richard White
Sports Editor

The Lady Panthers softball team picked up a win and took a loss in competition against Houston Baptist University, 9-1 and 3-4.

The Panthers struck first in the second inning with a Brenda Sneed walk, quick thinking and fast feet brought her across the plate. The Lady Panthers soon turned up the heat on the Huskies with an eight run fourth inning that began from a Christine Uribe walk.

The Panthers batted around, scored three runs before the first out was recorded, and the other five with two outs. The monstrous inning, and an errorless defense sealed the game for the Panthers. Rebecca Martinez got the win with a complete game in five innings of work, four hits, and one earned run. Offensive accolades go to

Uribe and Janel Myers, each had two hits and two RBIs.

The second game was a different story for the Lady Panthers. Bridget Coronado got the start for the Lady Panthers, and pitched a strong six innings with two strikeouts. In the second inning, the Panthers made their first mark, but in the third Houston Baptist matched and tacked on an extra run.

In the fifth inning, the Lady Panthers put their bats into motion producing two runs, and taking the lead with the go ahead run. In the same inning, Houston Baptist brought the game to a tie with a RBI triple. The Panthers couldn't get anything more going at the plate, and while in the sixth inning Houston Baptist brought in the run that won the game.

Sneed had two doubles and Myers had two runs. The Panthers now will come home to face Grambling State, Friday, April 4 at 4 p.m., and a doubleheader on April 5 that begins at noon.

The Panther needs you!

Calling all writers, copy editors, photographers

All majors All classifications

Let your voice be heard Get involved

Every Monday MSC 2nd Floor Room 219 5 p.m.

10 QUESTIONS 10 ANSWERS

Antoinette Majors is a member of the Prairie View A&M women's tennis team, I had the chance to ask ten questions, and I received ten answers.

Name: Antoinette Majors
Classification: Senior
Sport: Tennis
Hometown: St. Louis, Mo.
Major: Computer Engineering

Favorite sport other than tennis?
Football & Soccer

Favorite food?
Anything with cheese

Ramen noodle flavor?
Chicken

Favorite T.V. show?
America's Next Top Model

Favorite athlete?
Venus Williams

After a long day at the court, how do you relax?

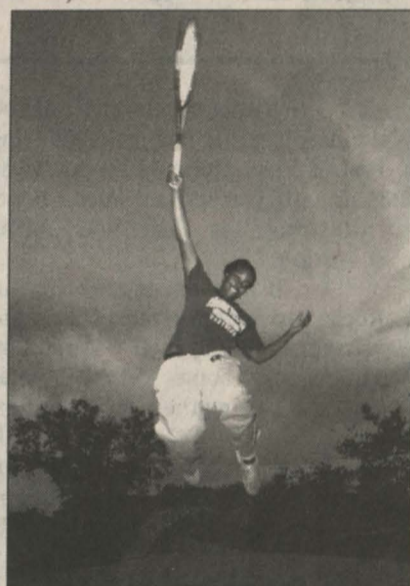
A nice, long, warm shower

Favorite tennis memory?
Getting to the tennis finals last year

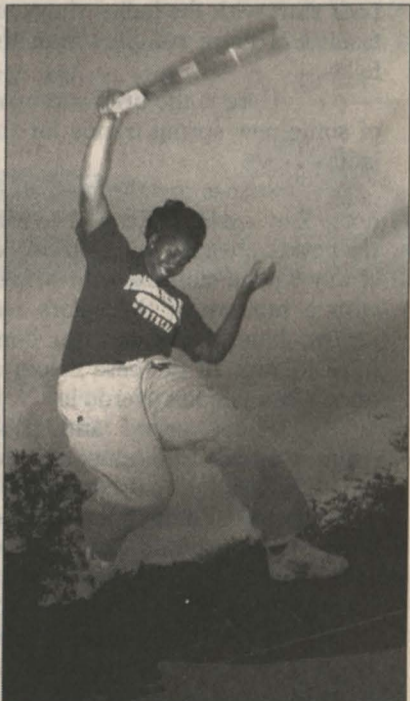
Your goal before you graduate?
Get a ring

Singles or doubles?
Singles

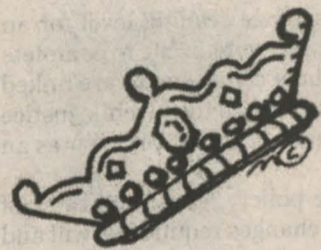
Your personal tennis goal?
Leave with a winning season



By Evan White, The Panther



By Evan White, The Panther



39TH ANNUAL MISS PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

MC TRYOUTS

MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008
5:30 PM

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VS.
Tarleton State Univ.
Prairie View, Texas
3 p.m.

'Big girls' bring down the house

By Jarac' Miles
Panther Contributor

Affectionately dubbed the "Big-Girl Pageant," a crowd waited in anticipation for the event to begin Sunday, March 30 in the MSC Auditorium. The start of Phi Nu Pi Week brought a new flavor to Prairie View A&M with the Miss Diamond Diva Plus-Sized Scholarship Pageant.

Hosts and Coordinators Wesley Vinson, Jr. and Jarac' Miles beamed with pride as the "Divine Nubian Queens" strutted their full-figured beauty across the stage.

The African theme, complete with 15 plus-sized dancers and warriors set the tone. Each of the six contestants portrayed an historical African queen, to add a sense of history and purpose. The contestants competed in trendy

wear, talent, formal, and question & answer.

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia provided live music to add energy to the show.

Matthew Nelson stated, "As achievers in every endeavor, it is our (Kappa Alpha Psi's) goal to provide new and innovative programs and events for the student body. We felt that this was definitely something that the campus needed to see."

At the end of the evening, Miss Dionne Buxton, freshman, communications major theatre minor, was crowned the first Miss Diamond Diva. First runner-up, Freshman JaLeesa Beavers, theatre major, said she was happy to just be a part of such a wonderful event. Beavers is also a member of the Gilpin players.

Buxton said with tears of joy, "I spent my entire freshman year in this pageant, and more so than winning, I can't believe that it's all over."

Hurry, spring into fashion

By Arlita Pouncy
Panther Staff

Winter has now passed and the new weather change is allowing Prairie View students to put away their puff jackets and suede boots and bring out their new spring collection.

If you haven't worn your Rocawear pioneer jacket or your waterproof 14-inch premium Timberland boots yet, you may consider storing them away for next year's winter. (WARNING: Only attempt this if you are a courageous individual and have no problem with wearing 2008 winter gear in 2009).

The big query of this season is what's in and what's out. Let's start with the ladies since our fashion is more complex than the fellas.

Here is the brief summary of some new spring trends for the ladies.

Stripes are the new polka dots. You could employ this with the new nautical look, which consist of any type of clothing with stripes, with a mixture of the colors red, yellow, blue, or white. You don't have to mix all of these colors at once. Please do not overdo it.

Floral prints and tribal prints are back. You remember this fad. This was that old cotton floral pink dress your mom put on you for your first grade photo. Bold patterns are in this spring and this is a good way to zest up your wardrobe. Wood jewelry adds to the tribal print effect. It is OK to mix different types of prints as long as they share a common color.

Ladies, oversized necklaces are also in. An oversized necklace can make a huge statement for a small price. You can find these barons at Target, Forever 21, and Claire's.

The spring fashion trend for boys is simpler than the girls. More boys, this spring, are starting to turn away from baggy jeans and plain tall tees and turn to more name

brand clothes such as Ed Hardy and starting to rock older name brands like Coogi, Akademicks, and L-R-G: Roots and Equipment. The fellas are beginning to get into fashion more so than the girls.

It used to be that a boy could wear a white tall tee, some jeans, with some J's (Air Jordan) and be satisfied. Around Prairie View, the boys seem to be rocking the urban punk rock look. Boy skinny jeans, plaid hoodies, graphic tees, bandanas around the neck, high tops, graphic tees etc.

Some fashion advice for both sexes is that color, color, and more bright colors are in this spring. We are living in a time where we need a little color in our lives.

If you want to come up on your lote (sunglasses) game you need to consider experimenting with different frames. The new trend for the ladies is the hot rounded-cat eye frames. You can find some of these frames at your closest Wet Seal. The wire-rim aviator shades are a new trend for the fellas.

This spring is all about being daring. Be a trend setter; don't be afraid to start a fad. The critics will soon become the followers of your style.



PSYCHOLOGICALLY SPEAKING

The incarceration of African American

By Louis P. Anderson
Panther Contributor

African American men are over represented in the prison system. The breakdown of the statistics is alarming. In this country the rate of incarceration is about one imprisoned male to 100 free males. However, the rate of incarceration for African Americans males is one to nine. That is for one imprisoned African American male there are nine African American males who are free.

The rate of incarceration for young African American males is stark. One of every 15 blacks between the ages of 18-39 is incarcerated. Furthermore, African American men are more likely to receive the death sentence for similar crimes committed. According the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth:

- About 13 percent of black males between the ages of 12-16 have been arrested.
- In comparison to other racial groups, black adolescents are more likely to be detained by the police
- Black adolescents are more likely to be committed to juvenile facilities

There are several factors that may explain the disparities in the rates of incarceration. In this essay I will briefly discuss three. The factors are public policy, poverty and literacy rates. I will begin with public policy.

In the late 80's we saw a remarkable rise in the rate of incarceration. Currently America incarcerates about 25 percent of all prisoners in the world. So in general, in this country, there is a tendency to incarcerate and to punish. During the period between the late 80's and early 90's, millions of men and women were incarcerated for drug related offenses. This period is known as the tough on crime era. During this era there was a general belief that a strong relation existed between drug use and crime, particularly drug use and violent crimes against people. Thus laws were enacted that led to tougher sentencing guidelines and longer sentences. The laws favored stiffer penalties for crack cocaine use.

Many public officials were elected to office because they promised their constituencies that they would be tough on crime. Most believed that punishment would deter criminal behavior. As a result new prisons and correctional facilities were built. The prison industry prospered. In fact more prisons were built than were schools. For example, during a period of time during the 90's, in the urban area of Baltimore, Maryland there were more African American men in prison, on parole, and awaiting sentencing for crimes than there were in school. Interestingly enough, the tough on crime policies have not yielded the expected returns in terms of crime reduction and perceptions of safety among citizens. Instead the costs associated with building and maintaining correctional facilities have escalated to the point where states now realize that they can not afford the costs of sustaining prisons.

Closely related to public policy, as a causal agent in crime is poverty. That there is a relation between poverty and crime should not surprise anyone. According to various commissions, among all industrial countries, America has the highest poverty rate and the largest gap between the wealthy and poor. The poor are disproportionately represented in prison. Structural causes of poverty such as unemployment, substandard housing and social exclusion are factors that contribute to crime and violent behavior among people in this society. These structural conditions of unemployment, substandard housing, and social exclusion effect the ability of individuals and families to provide for themselves and to function in healthy and productive ways.

The literacy rate among incarcerated offenders is quite low. The average reading level for an offender is at the fourth grade level. With a reading level so low the individual may not be able to complete a simple application form. Low reading levels, school problems, and poor school achievement are linked to early delinquent behavior and eventually adult crimes. If a child becomes involved in the juvenile justice system prior to the age of 12 then there is a high probability that he will engage in criminal behavior as an adult.

The solution to reducing crime is clear. We need to change public policy, reduce the rates of poverty, and increase educational opportunities and the literacy rates. These changes require the will and the efforts of all sectors of society.

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Annual SpringFest ends with well-played step show

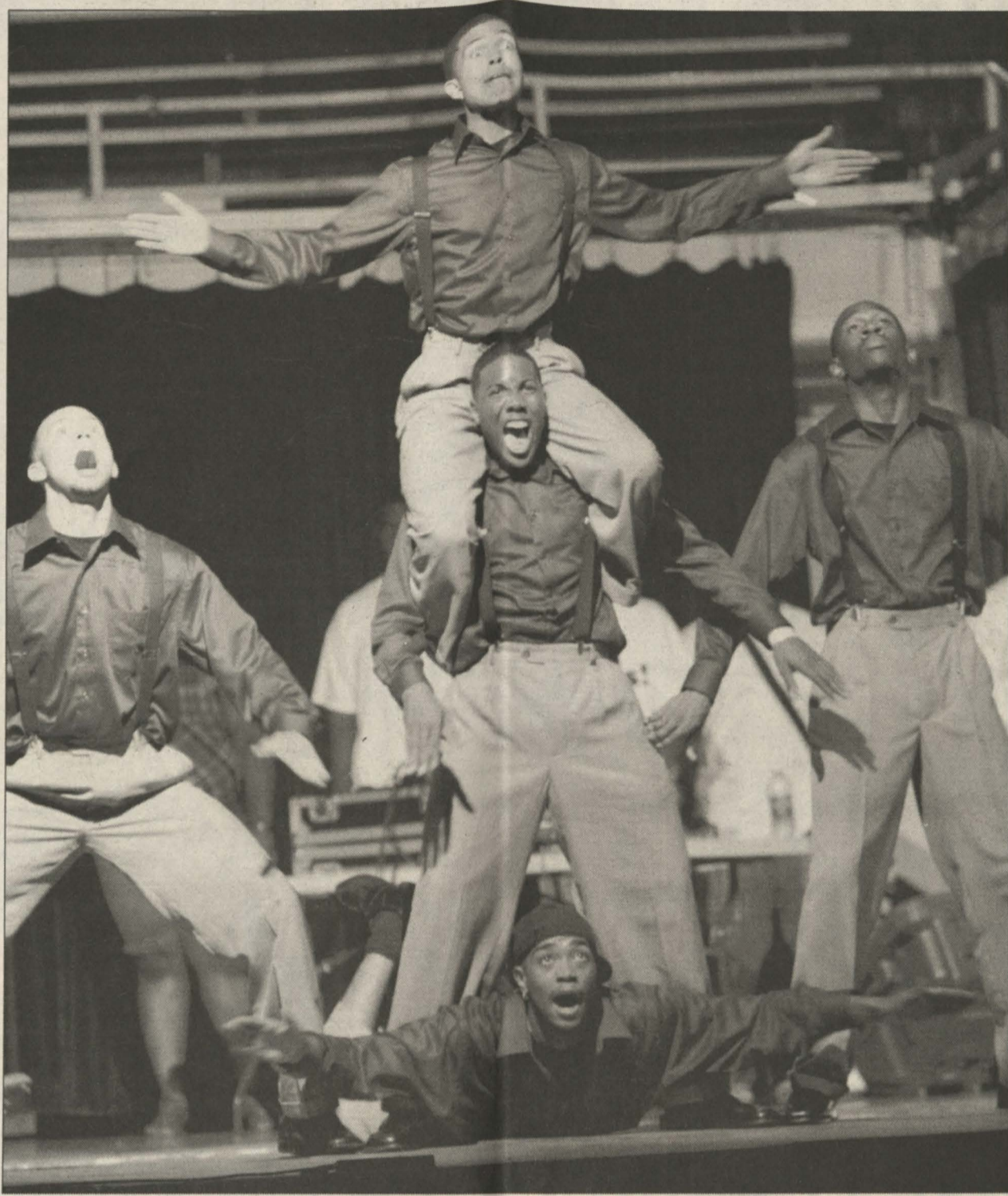
By Richard White
Sports Editor

The "Stomp the Hill" step show, the closing event for Campus Activities Board's SpringFest 2008, was held Saturday in the William "Billy" J. Nicks Fieldhouse. The SpringFest step show doesn't get as big a crowd as the Homecoming step show, but the contestants were still going to put on a show even if they had no audience. Of course prize money and trophies are on the line, but as the adrenaline pumps, pounding hearts beat, and exhaustion sets in, pride in their fellow members and the name of their respective organization were the things that carried the teams through.

This year's show was scored based on a variety of things. Each organization had eight minutes to present their show. The introduction skit/step, creativity, complexity, choreography was judged on a scale of 1 to 15. On a 1 to 10 scale was crowd participation, vocal delivery and clarity. Overall performance was based on a 1 to 20 scale. Penalty points added in increments of 2, on a scale from 2 to 10, were also given if the organization committed a violation that included vulgarity, profanity, and over time.

Rickie D and Neshia Nledo served the crowd as hosts for the evening while DJ Mr. Rogers made sure he played his part on the ones and twos. As with most events, a delayed start only brought about more anticipation. As part of the prize for winning the University College Dorm-Step Off, buildings 37 and 46 were part of the acts that participated.

To start the show, building 37 presented their winning routine of "Access Granted." Second, was Kappa Kappa Psi, who always thinks outside the box, and will give you your money's worth when it comes to a step show. Their "Safari" theme brought about laughs with excerpts from Geico commercials, the Lion



By Evan White, The Panther

First time for everything: The building 46 step team put the boot down for their second time overall and first SpringFest for a small but entertained audience.

King, and Family Matters. Next, was Phi Beta Sigma who presented a "Zombies From the Grave" theme, and also had a Geico excerpt and

the classic "Thriller" dance break. Gamma Sigma Sigma tried their best to present a salute to Janet Jackson's illustrious career. Their

show included snippets from Good Times and the infamous Super Bowl halftime show.

Building 46 brought a

breath of fresh air to the show that just about everyone watched or knew, "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air." The show included quotes from Coming to America, a classic line from almost every season of the show, and canes that gave their show a little something extra. The last fraternity to showcase was Alpha Phi Alpha. Their "I am Legend" theme put them in competition with the Sigmas. The last act of the night was Zeta Phi Beta. The classic childhood board game, CandyLand was their theme.

After the scores were tallied, it all came down to the awards presentation. In the CSO category KKPsi won first place, followed GSS. In the Pan-Hellenic category, for the women, Zeta Phi Beta took first place. The first place winners were, Alpha Phi Alpha, with Phi Beta Sigma taking second. A look and feeling of uncertainty filled the Baby Dome after the winners were announced.

The after party followed, and since a fight didn't call off the night early, the students all took in a sigh of relief.

An hour into the after party, the students were interrupted by CAB director Jasmine D. Parker.

The student body was informed of a mistake that was made during judging. From the mistake, the Sigmas were the actual winners. Parker said, "An error was made during the score auditing. The error wasn't intentional, and a public apology was given." Six was the margin of victory for Phi Beta Sigma.

Senior KKPsi member Jonas McClain said, "Winning felt great, but since the turnout wasn't huge, it put a small damper on the win." Speaking of the step show, sophomore Monique Perry said, "I feel it should have been more organizations, and better themes." After the mix-up and clarification Phi Beta Sigma member, Darian Cornelius said, "The feeling was great, me and my frat brothers ran around shouting. I thought I knew something wasn't right, and now it is."

Casino night a 'full house'

By Arlita Pouncy
Panther Staff

Prairie View students piled into the Willie Albert Tempton Memorial Student Center ballroom March 26 for a night of thrills and adventure, as they moved from table to table at Casino Night.

A part of SpringFest, Casino Night provided students with music from a live DJ as they entered the ballroom that Campus Activities

Board transformed into a casino.

Volunteers dressed in black and white attire to assist students at the entrance. Each student was given a ticket to receive chips to play the casino games. Students had their choice of poker, black jack, roulette, slot machines, and craps.

Despite the fact that students did not receive money or prizes for winning, they were still excited to play the games.

"I enjoyed casino night," Ashlei Caldwell, a psychology major,

said. "The atmosphere made me feel like I was in a real casino and I was very surprised about the turn out."

Dealers were present to help students play the games. The PV Dolls performed as show girls for the night, while volunteers waited on students, serving virgin drinks.

Accounting major, Danyelle Kendricks, enjoyed the overall setup of casino night.

"I really liked how everything looked," she said, "and those drinks were on point."



By Evan White, The Panther

Full House: Literally, Panthers packed the MSC ballroom and placed bets in the mock casino set up during SpringFest.



The Answers Weekly Update for Freshmen



You must have had a grade of 'C' (OR 'S') or better in your developmental class (es) at mid-terms to be able to pre-register for spring summer/fall 2008. Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick THEA testing schedule or call 936-261-3610.

The Dynamic Young Ladies of BLDG #37 won the Alpha Kappa Alpha Step-Off! Congratulations to: Alura Baxter, Tenechia Beal, Raquel Davis, Cierra Devalle, Kymberlyn Mitchell, Kiesha Richardson, Brittany Robinson, Lauren Rogers, Breona Wheeler, Jasmine Wilborn

Mid-terms not what they should be?? Instructors from the Department of Developmental Education are providing tutoring in the UC Panther Room weekly: Wednesday---English/Reading 1-3PM; Thursday --- English/Reading/Math 2-4P

Prairie View A & M University has been tasked to increase it's retention rate for First Time Freshmen who entered in Summer/Fall 2007 by 5%. The bottom line is that we need more students to stay in college and graduate!!! We are asking all freshmen to be in the 80.7% that we need to meet this mandate. "Are You In? You need to be. If you have concerns about your ability to attend school next fall, contact an advisor at UC for assistance today!"



1. Who is glad that the SGA Biggest Loser race is almost over?
2. Is it appropriate that the winner should at least know how to spell?
3. Why is a certain someone wasting his breath campaigning for PV Choice awards?
4. Has he hit a "bump" in the road?
5. Does he think it's cool to wear a neck brace on one day, and throw up the "ice" on another?
6. Doesn't he know neither are cool nor ice cold?
7. Isn't probate for him TBA just like his graduation date?
8. Why do the Sigmas always have to be dead in a step show?
9. Aren't they used to goin' live?
10. How many years will Rickey D be on the mic?
11. If we turn the mic into a diploma, will he stay away from it?
12. Can we get a shout out to May 10th?
13. Since the AKAs are not having a line, who is going to give up and graduate?
14. Or will she keep the Faith?
15. Are the new Ques a little overqualified?
16. Did they stomp into the right organization?
17. Now that it is spring, how many baby showers will you attend in the UC?
18. Or has the statistic changed the location to the Phase 3 clubhouse?
19. Isn't this a better batch of 20 Questions?
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 us at panther@pvamu.edu. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther.

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DO MORE
THAN GIVE
SHOTS
THEY CALL
THEM



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This Week On The Hill

Thursday, April 3

Kappa Alpha Psi
Are You A Guitar Hero
Game Tournament, MSC
Lounge

Classic Dance Ensemble
Auditions for 2008 Dance
Company, Dance Room

Epsilon Gamma Iota
Annual Gala, Ballroom

Catholic Newman
Association
Mass, Meditation Room

Gamma Phi Delta
Bible Study Seminar
Series "Who Am I,"
Chapel

Alpha Phi Alpha
Informational Seminar,
New Science Rm. A103

Friday, April 4

Gamma Phi Delta
So So D.E.F. Christian
Talent Exhibition, New
Science Rm. A101

Sigma Tau Theta
Project Style Fashion
Show Practice, Student
Lounge

Saturday, April 5

Student Activities

Sunday, April 6

All-Faiths Chapel
Worship Experience
10:30a.m.- 11:30p.m.

Monday, April 7

Tuesday, April 8

Priority Registration
Begins for Summer

Delta Sigma Theta
Educational Development
Seminar, New Science Rm.
A103

Karnation Kourt
Freshman Bingo,
University College
Auditorium

CSO
Battle of the Sexes: Sex In
A Guy vs. Girl
Competition, Student
Lounge

African Students
Association
You Can't Hate -The Last
Message, New Science
Rm. A104

Wednesday, April 9

CAB
Hump Day on the Hill,
MSC Outside

FOCCS
Bible Study, Chapel

University Village
Rip The Runway Fashion
Show, Ballroom Section
A&B

Delta Sigma Theta
Faculty Basketball
Tournament, Dome

Alpha Kappa Alpha
Mr. Ebony Debonari
Scholarship Pageant,
Student Center Auditorium

Weather



Mostly cloudy, breezy and
warm
High: 83 °F
Low: 65 °F



A couple of thunderstorms
High: 77 °F
Low: 61 °F



Abundant sunshine and
nice
High: 75 °F
Low: 52 °F



Breezy and nice with
sunshine
High: 77 °F
Low: 58 °F



Sunny to partly cloudy
High: 80 °F
Low: 63 °F



Cloudy most of the time
High: 84 °F
Low: 66 °F



Sun and some clouds
High: 84 °F
Low: 57 °F