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# THE PANTHER

Volume 88, Issue 7

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

pvpanther.com

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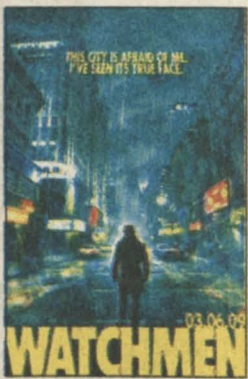
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## Lady Panthers become back-to-back SWAC regular season champions

### As the number one seed in the tournament, the Lady Panthers will be tough to take down

James Motton II  
Panther Staff

On Thursday, March 5, the Lady Panthers knocked off the Braves of Alcorn State (72-44) to increase their winning streak to 15.

Prairie View took a 26-14 lead on a Shondria Combs lay-up at the 10:08 mark. The Panthers' defense held Alcorn State to a mere low of 29 percent shooting from the floor. The Lady Panthers went into intermission with a 47-23 lead and shot a remarkable 61 percent from the field.

In the second half the Lady Panthers started where they left off as they went up by 25 (59-34) on a Candice Thomas lay-up with 13:13 left in regulation. The Lady Panthers were led by Twila Stokes who had a top-notch

game with 18 points and collected 11 rebounds. Candice Thomas also contributed 15 points in the win.

On Saturday, March 7, the Lady Panthers were looking to get revenge against the Southern University Jaguars, who had previously beaten the Panthers back on Jan. 5.

The Lady Panthers started the first half fierce as they took an 11-0 lead on a Dominique Smith three-pointer at the 16:34 mark. Prairie View slightly let up as they let Southern get within two points (23-21) with 4:51 left. The Lady Panthers went into intermission with a 29-24 lead.

In the second half Prairie View started the game somewhat stagnant as Southern took a two point lead (33-35) with 14:35 left in the game. The Lady Panthers regrouped as Smith was able to capitalize on a three-point play, giving the Panthers back the lead (36-35) at the 13:53 mark. The Panthers looked

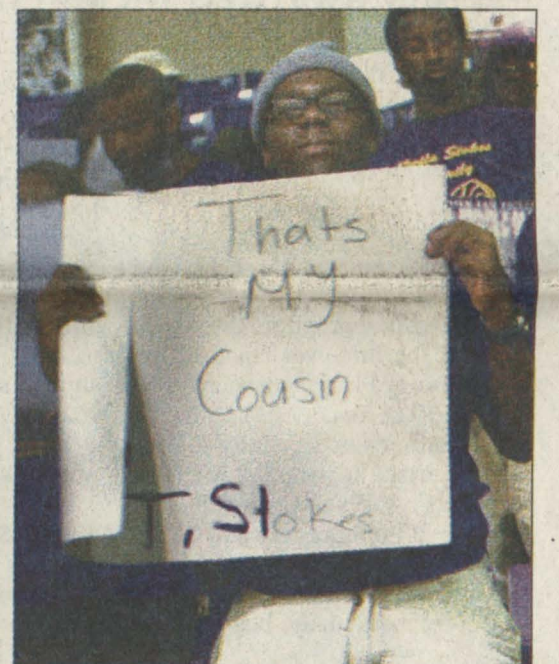
to run away with the game as Smith was able to connect on two free throws with a minute left.

The Lady Panthers held on to win (59-51), clinching SWAC championships for another consecutive year. Smith led the Panthers with 17 points and six rebounds. Thomas popped in 15 points to go along with seven rebounds. Shondria Combs recorded 11 points and Gaati Werema posted a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

"It feels great, I got to give my hats off to the girls for all their hard work," said assistant coach Marcus Young.

Center Aminata Dieye said, "It's a very great feeling, and I'm very excited for the team, I wish it didn't have to end."

The Lady Panthers travel to Birmingham, Ala., to participate in the SWAC Tournament March 11-14. The first game is at 5:30 p.m. on March 11 against Grambling State.



**That's my cousin:** (Right) Family members of Twila Stokes show support for senior night. (Left) Candice Thomas looks for the pass. (All photos by Ronald Smith).

## Financial aid office makes changes to streamline service

### Out with the postal service and in with the e-mail

By Richard White  
Editor in Chief

With the use of technology the financial aid office is becoming more transparent, according to lead financial aid counselor Josh Menefee.

Menefee said, "There are changes in financial aid and these are things people need to know."

The first step to getting awarded is to complete the 2009-2010 FAFSA before the March 15 deadline. Menefee said, "Financial Aid awards on a first come, first served basis. We give until we have no more. Usually the students who always get awarded first aren't the upperclassmen, but the incoming freshmen." He added that it is important for students to get their FAFSA in as soon as possible and the opportune time is when parents file their taxes.

The financial aid office is no longer sending award letters through the mail to residences, instead they will be delivered through e-mail.

Therefore, a student can know in-

stantly instead of waiting for the mail to come. Menefee urged students to keep their e-mail inboxes clear.

Menefee said, "We send e-mails to whatever e-mail address you put down on your financial aid documents. When Facebook and MySpace messages flood your inbox, you won't be able to receive important messages that you need. When we send an e-mail and your mailbox is full, the e-mail bounces back to us, and that's where a problem comes into play. That's when students have to do their part and keep their mailbox clear."

Another issue that affects financial aid is when a student claims to be independent. What makes one independent is if you're a graduate student, married, and have children who receive more than half of their support from you. These rules will apply all the way until June 2009.

Menefee said, "The old system wasn't a problem, it was just keeping up with technology. We are still in the early stage, and our main goal is to have financial aid more streamlined. We want to minimize the crowds, headaches, and panic rush that comes from the first weeks of school. In order to facilitate this

we need the students to do their part by getting things done and turned in on time. Don't sit on your hands, because poor planning on your part doesn't constitute an emergency on our part. We have federal rules and guidelines we have to follow as well."

Students can go to pvamu.edu/faith or go to pvamu.edu, click on quick links, and then click on financial aid.

Menefee said, "Everything you want to know about financial aid is available on the Web site. It has endless information, private scholarship search engines, loans, Americorps, loan repayment programs, grants, information on loan consolidation, etc. The information is very up-to-date. When it comes down to the fall, we don't want the students to be in the same situation. You can also go to pvamu.financialaid-tv.com, which is something like a Youtube for financial aid if you don't want to read about financial aid."

With the recent signing of the stimulus plan, Pell grants have been increased from \$4,731 a year to \$5,350 a year for students with no expected family contribution.

Menefee said, "Financial aid has nothing to hide, we want to be transparent."

## Students share mixed feelings about referendum

By Ebony Sowell  
Panther Staff

Students came out Feb. 27 to vote on the increase of the athletic fee as well as the student services fee. The student service fee passed with a 282-280 vote and the athletic fee did not because of the 293 opposed versus the 273 that were for it. The close voting outcome could have been a result of the confusion surrounding the referendum.

The legislation was open for the entire student body but approximately 7 percent voted.

Josh Grimes, a junior and SGA member, said, "I think the referendum wasn't fully broadcast to the student body...I would have liked to see the student body be aware of the reasoning behind it."

The proposed athletic fee would increase from \$10/semester credit hour with a cap not to exceed \$150 to \$12.60/semester credit hour and removal of the cap. The monies derived from this increase would go toward the maintenance of the athletics program in all necessary forms. Another ramification of this particular legislation was to allow the student government to raise this fee up to 5 percent without the consent of the student body through another referendum. This sub point was brought up so that there would be no need to poll the students before minor decisions could be enforced.

The legislation of the student services fee was proposed so that the cap on the fee would increase from \$150 to \$160 per semester. This fee would also have the possibility of an increase up to 5 percent without the consent of the student body and would require student approval for anything exceeding this amount.

Brad Traywick, SGA chief of staff, wasn't more concerned with the outcome as he was about the importance of the students' wishes being granted. He said, "I could be for something but the student body has to be. It's really what the students want."

Students had mixed feelings about the referendum. Football player Cedrick Reed admits to being "for the athletic fee increase but against the student fee" due to the lack of knowledge of the reason for the increase.

Many people associated with athletics supported the increase of the athletic fee in particular. Corrina Brown, who is a member of the track and field team was strongly in favor of passing this bill. She stated that "the track is old and worn and it's hard to run on...not that much different from my high school track. For us to be taken serious...in order for our fan base to increase we need better stuff."

Some students like Brett Ivey were against the legislation in the referendum being enacted because they felt improvements were unnecessary. "[The money] needs to be applied correctly. I don't want to raise the fees and the stadium not be built until a long time from now."

Baseball team captain Kerron Hubbard agreed. "I'm a senior, if I was to get charged for the fees it wouldn't be effective until years from now. I don't want to spend extra [money] when I'm not going to see the changes," said Hubbard.

Past referendums that students will see in the fall include those passed spring of 2008. One issue that passed was to increase the international fee from \$1 to \$3 per semester.

Another issue that passed was the elimination of the sunset clause. The sunset clause was enacted on a 10-year trial basis. The details of this clause were that each student would pay a \$150 athletics fee and if the clause was not voted on to remain a part of the student's fee it would then automatically be abolished. This was put into place so that the future student body would have a choice of whether they wanted to continue to pay this fee or deem it unnecessary.

*"...the referendum wasn't fully broadcast to the student body...I would have liked to see the student body be aware of the reasoning behind it."*

## Penguins walk for cancer



By Ronald Smith, The Panther

**Walk it out:** Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, Inc. members raise funds while creating awareness for the American Cancer Society.

By Jacqueline S. Sadberry  
Copy Desk Chief

Kappa Delta Chi, Inc. hosted a walk-a-thon on March 7 to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Monies were collected earlier from those who registered for the walk, but anyone who participated that day had the option of donating at the end of the walk-a-thon.

The walk-a-thon is an annual event for the organization on a national level, but it was held for the first time on Prairie View's campus.

"Basically we want to get the word out on cancer and raise everyone's awareness," said Kappa Delta Chi, Inc. member Sarah Willhelm. Intentionally Kappa Delta Chi, Inc. wanted to have a relay with all

the CSOs on campus, but not enough participated, said Willhelm.

A prize was also awarded to junior Shane Mitchell for the most laps walking 19.

"We had an iPod shuffler and the more laps a student walked, the higher the chances of winning the prize," said vice president of Kappa Delta Chi, Inc. Maricruz Moqueda. "There were some students whom were very committed and really helped to make a difference."

Sophomore Tre Petaway and junior Jamelle Crutcher tied with a total of 17 laps each. Freshman Monique Owens, Sophomore Ryan Versey, and Billy Copeland all walked 15 each. In total there were 341 laps.

The Texas A&M Beta chapter of Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, Inc. and the Phi chapter of Alpha Psi Lambda Fraternity, Inc. were among the participants and supporters.

## Faculty awarded for outstanding efforts

By Shayna Walker  
L/H A/E Editor

Of the 103 teachers who participated in last semester's student evaluation program, the top 18 received the first-ever teaching excellence award last Wednesday.

"The Texas A&M University System's chancellor initiated the idea to award instructors for their teaching," said Sheleah Hughes, director of public relations. "The awards were based on surveys done by students, which were introduced to the teachers at the beginning of fall."

The winners were Annette McClinton, Orion Criftja, Alex Colvin, James L. Jones II, Eustace Dufus, Wash Jones, Lisa K. Thompson, Grace Goodie, S. Woldesenbet, Alphonso Keaton, E. Sullivan-Walter, James Palmer, S. Shakir, Ymitri Mathison, Carl Moore, Devethia Guillory, Doris Morgan-Bloom and Immaculata Igbo.

Bloom, agriculture and human science professor and freshman adviser said, "It really gives me a boost to know I'm reaching my students."

Goodie, chairwoman of the faculty Senate said, "I'm so pleased that the president and chancellor took the time to recognize quality teachers not just tenure faculty."

## SGA holds Meet the Senator mixer

By Domonique Brooks  
Panther Intern

On Monday the student body was welcomed to meet and greet the Student Government Association senators in the MSC ballroom.

The program began with a welcome by Stephanie Guity, senator for graduate school. Each member of the senate took the time to introduce themselves and give a summary of their position and the responsibilities that come along with it.

Students in attendance were invited to ask any questions or state comments and concerns they might have had for the senators either in open forum or in private.

SGA is the official voice for the student body and its members serve as student representatives in the policy and decision-making processes of the university.

The senate wanted to ensure that the student body is aware that their opinions do matter and their voice can and will be heard.

"We decided that an event like this would be needed when we saw the interest that our fellow students had on issues discussed at our recent town hall meeting. It is important that you know who we are and that you can always come to us with issues," Guity said.

Dana Polk, a junior mass communications major said, "Meet the Senate was very informative, it was good to finally be able to put a face with the names that I have heard. I feel that it is important that we, as a student body, know who is representing us when it comes to the decisions that are made on our behalf."

## Time to talk back

Students pushed to complete NSSE online

By Whitney Harris  
News Editor

Prairie View A&M University is encouraging students to participate in the annual National Survey of Student Engagement between March 9 and April 10.

Randomly selected first year freshmen and seniors will be notified through their campus e-mail to take the online survey. The results from the survey will help the university accurately evaluate itself and its productivity.

"It's really important that students are involved and that they are saying things from their perspective," said survey administrator and assistant justice studies professor Dr. Charles Bailey. "[Students] will tell us what they think and value instead of someone saying what they think they think."

Students are strongly asked to participate in the 10-15 minute survey. Questions target areas such as level of academic challenge, student-faculty interaction and institutional climate.

Bailey said that the university's focus is ultimately enhancing student learning mentally and socially. That includes areas such as extra-curricular activities and classroom needs.

"Students have to be engaged in a variety of areas," said University College Director Lettie Raab. "The sooner we find out our weak areas the sooner we can fix the prob-

lem. We will never know to change it if we don't know something's not working."

The survey helps faculty and administration see trouble areas so that they may improve for the following school year. The survey alerts the university on the perceptions to rate their level of influence on its students socially and academically. The idea is to rate the university on how well they are helping to develop students throughout their college experience.

NSSE also compares PVAMU to other institutions and provides information to prospective students.

"It's not to evaluate them, they will not be identified and it's confidential, but it gives them a voice, and it gives the administration a better idea of students' perceptions of their college experience at PVAMU," said Dr. Kenyatta Phelps, survey administrator and sociology professor.

Phelps said that faculty primarily uses NSSE to make improvements in the classroom. "Because we will have a base of issues we need to improve on, it'll be the administration's responsibility at that point," Phelps said.

Bailey stressed that students should take time out to complete NSSE because they are stakeholders and important parts in the process of improving the university through their donation of time and money.

"Please take time to do this so that we can know what we're doing. [NSSE] gives us feedback on ourselves," said Raab.



By Ronald Smith, The Panther

**Gold stars:** Professors wait anxiously to receive their awards.

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**Text messaging involving ex-Detroit mayor**

By Ed White and  
Corey Williams  
Associated Press

DETROIT - A new batch of text messages, 682 pages in all, detailing the sexual relationship between ex-Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and his former chief of staff, as well as other City Hall intrigue, Christine Beatty, was released by a judge Monday.

The messages were collected by the Wayne County prosecutor's office for use in its criminal case and includes some of the now-familiar sexually explicit banter between Kilpatrick and Beatty.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Timothy Kenny last week ruled the text messages are

public records and might shed light on city government misconduct.

Kilpatrick and Beatty were charged last year with perjury, misconduct and obstruction of justice for lying on the stand during a civil whistle-blowers' trial about their relationship and roles in the firing of a police official.

Both entered pleas in their cases.

Kilpatrick was released in early February after serving 99 days of a 120-day jail sentence.

Beatty was sentenced in early January to 120 days, but is expected to walk free on April 15, her lawyer said last week.

In one series of texts released, Kilpatrick, Beatty and others react to a May 2003 news conference by Gary Brown, one of the officers in the whistle-blower lawsuit.

Other messages point to possible trouble in Kilpatrick and Beatty's relationship.

**Abilene Christian student leader ousted**

By Angela K. Brown  
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas - Abilene Christian University's first black student body president has been impeached six months after he reported finding a noose on his chair, although students and officials say that had no connection to his ousting.

The Students' Association Congress voted 25-5-2 March 4 to impeach Daniel Paul Watkins, saying he had not fulfilled the 20 hours of required work per week as an executive officer, was frequently late to meetings and called professors derogatory names.

Watkins said he "made a pretty compelling case" then was asked to leave the meeting. He said

he was not disrespectful to anyone and was late and had missed some student government work when he broke his leg last fall.

Then members voted after he was out of the room, although the university's constitution says impeachment requires a three-fourths vote of the entire student government body and not all 43 members were there.

"It feels like the rules were changed in the middle of the process, but I didn't know what my recourse was," Watkins, 20, a political science major, told The Associated Press by telephone. "It feels like there's a concerted effort to get me out of office for whatever reason."

Watkins, the student body's vice president last year, said many students congratulated him last spring after he was elected to the one-year term as president. He said he thought things were going smoothly with his fellow student

government members. Still, he said he is not sure if race was a factor.

"I don't look like other Student Association presidents, so it came down to a personal vendetta," he said.

About 13 percent of the 4,700 students at Abilene Christian University are black. The percentage of black students has doubled over the past decade, said officials with the Church of Christ-affiliated university about 150 miles west of Fort Worth.

In September, Watkins reported finding a noose in his campus office chair, which prompted an immediate investigation and denouncement from school administrators.









Watkins said more than half of the allegations against him were brought up after he was forced to leave the meeting. He said he read about them in Thursday's Abilene Reporter-News.



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## The administration isn't exempt

Be the change you want to see...Students have heard this for some time now and we are diligently working to get ourselves together for the campus and our future, but I wonder if the administration has ever thought about becoming the change?

This viewpoint is not meant to call anyone out, but just to open some eyes. Since the spring general assembly, we have been challenged to be advocates of change. My only issue is, how can we change if administration hasn't changed? This question leads to a series of other questions. Why isn't administration personable? Why is it so hard to get anything out of them? Why do they give you the runaround? Why hasn't administration taken it upon themselves to step their game up, and become advocates of change as well? A few SGA Town Hall meetings each semester doesn't suffice.

Why do I have to be in SGA or a part of *The Panther* staff in order to know certain people and figures in administration? Why aren't they visible? The administration is the inner workings to make sure the university keeps moving like a well-oiled machine. A university consists of a combination of students first and administration second. I'm pretty sure if we combined those forces Prairie View would be a serious force to be reckoned with, but it feels like an ongoing battle that is going nowhere.

Now there are some members of administration who make themselves present and available to the student body. For example, Dr. Miron Billingsley, VP of Student Affairs, does an excellent job in making himself available and ready to the students of the university. Why is it so hard for the rest of the administration to follow? We know you are

professionals, and have work to do, but will it really hurt you to sacrifice the Pardus Cafe for an afternoon or two and have lunch with the student body in the MSC? We all know that staying in contact is important and we do appreciate all of you checking your e-mail and sending replies. But there's just something about meeting someone in person that really makes the connection more tangible. It says so much without using too many words.

We have to be the change we want to see. Dr. Wright, we just want you to know what we students at the university face. So what does it take for you to be visible on campus? I think I can speak for the students when I say, "We want to see you on campus." Since I've been here, I have never seen Dr. Wright walk or take a stroll through the campus making an effort to get to know the students of the university. Yes, you know the SGA president and VP, Mr. & Miss PVAMU, and *The Panther* staff, but what about the student who is down and out? The student who is considering leaving the university, or what about the student who will graduate from this university and never return because of a negative experience here?

Dr. Wright, you never know that one unexpected visit may change a life for the better, encourage a student to apply themselves, or maybe even put a smile on someone's face. We may never know if you stay indoors or away from the university, but just making frequent appearances can do wonders. General assemblies, Town Hall meetings, and special programs at your house are nice, but we all must sacrifice and go the extra mile. If I can take 18 hours, be editor in chief of *The Panther*, and a community assistant for University College, I'm

pretty sure you can find the time in your schedule to walk through the campus every so often and get to know the students who make up Prairie View. Without the students, there would be no Prairie View. I don't know your schedule, and I'm pretty sure you are a very busy man who works hard, but I believe sacrifice leads to struggle, struggle leads to progress, and progress leads to change.

Now, I know the student body may not be perfect little angels, but we can work together for the greater good of Prairie View. It won't hurt for the student body to try as well. Whether it's being on time for class, having our pants on our waists, dressing appropriately for class, taking our dishes to the proper receptacles, etc; small things will add up.

I hope to see a change in the upcoming years if not by tomorrow, next week, or next month. The future of Prairie View is scary based on what I see now. You always want to have pride in your university. If the administration shows a true love for the school and the students, then student morale would be better. The trickle down effect will cause an increase in productivity, school spirit, and alumni support for PVAMU.

So administration, I'm challenging you to "Be the change you want to see." Let's make some sacrifices so that we all can be of one accord, lead by example so the rest can follow. We students will come through on our part, but administration needs to make that sacrifice and become more personable, become more available to students, become role models, and become the change.

--Richard White

## Student leaders who blackball student advocates

I am an individual who likes to become involved in organizations that are primarily focused on progressive change. Whenever I commit myself to something, I like to believe that I am dedicated 100 percent to helping others in whatever way I can.

Recently, I sided against one of the organizations I am a member of because I felt that it was not doing its job of being a representation of the student body. What bothered me was that these members, or "student leaders" as some like to dub themselves, were not actively trying their best to help the student body in a way most beneficial to them.

Issues that students have are being ignored and unanswered, and for those brave enough to try to step out of the status quo, it seems as though they are being "blackballed" by their peers. As a result of my going against the grain and fighting to help educate Prairie View voters on the issues at hand on the referendum, it seemed that my fellow leaders were becoming extremely disappointed in me and my actions. Is it fair to want me out of an organization because I'm "leaking" information to the student body that pertains to them, or is it that I'm leaking something that was intended to take advantage of the students? I can't seem to understand how a STUDENT organization can continue without communicating with the STUDENTS.

It is embarrassing that members of the same organization can walk around and deliver information that is completely different from one another because they are

not talking among themselves. How can students be expected to do their civic responsibility and keep up with things if they are being poorly educated on important issues?

Many of "those other" leaders fail to possess a sense of loyalty to their peers. How effective can you be as a leader if during your tenure in whatever position you hold you worry more about yourself and others like you rather than the majority of those you represent?

The problem with our student leaders is that most of them are so concerned with self. They are so committed to benefiting from everything and sadly they forget the true reason they hold such positions or titles. They are the STUDENT LEADERS, yet they devote their time and energy to things that don't matter. These people are taking advantage of the people who trust them to fight for what's best for the general student body. Instead of seeking things within the school system to help students whether it be financial or academic. They get caught up in being puppets for the administration.

I can no longer get angry with the administration or staff of Prairie View A&M because they are not to blame. Their job is to provide us with an education and they are doing just that. Our student representatives are supposed to be helping us gain the most out of everything else. Instead, they believe that it is more important to advocate things students really don't need or care about.

The leaders of the university often confuse the term elite with elitist. To be a member of the elite

means to be a part of a select number of people representing a larger number. You can compare this to W.E.B. DuBois' talented tenth theory; there will always be leaders who are thrust ahead of the pack because of natural ability and drive. What most importantly makes them leaders, however, is their ability to prepare for and communicate to those they lead. Elitists; I believe is how most of our "student leaders" behave. They act as though they are superior and deserve favored treatment. What's even worse is that most of them treat the "average" student as either inferior or as the child in a parent-child relationship who needs someone to take care of things for them without their opinions being considered. Granted they were elected to serve as a voice but that does not dismiss their responsibility to accurately voice the opinions of those who elected them. Once one obtains a position, their opinion is no longer THEIR opinion; it becomes an opinion based on a collective people. Voters, I think we should also take responsibility for the fact that we elected people who have a knack for sounding good but working poorly.

Therefore, I think that the student leaders of the university should first analyze themselves and see how they are failing the students before criticizing those who are actually advocating for them. Maybe if they stepped up their game others wouldn't have to make them look bad.

--Whitney Harris

## A response to Village maintenance

After reading the response from the maintenance man to Ms. Whitney Harris, I knew that I needed to comment on this issue. I do not know whether or not Ms. Harris is a resident in the University Village but I am, and have been for 3 years. So my comments will be anything but gossip, but rather personal experience and therefore factual.

Mr. Timothy Smith in his response continually complained about the duties of his job, which I am sure were clearly explained to him when applying for a position as a maintenance man. Being a maintenance man involves unclogging toilets regardless of what they are clogged with. Why? Because this is part of the job. Complaining about the odor of a room is irrelevant; the smell of someone's room need not

be a concern of yours because we are not asking you to scrub the carpets or Febreze the room. Your duty is to fix whatever is broken regardless of how it broke, or whose "cousin or baby's mother" did it.

It is obvious to see that you are concerning yourself with things that hold no importance when maintaining the Village. I continually see maintenance staff riding around the village with one leg hanging out of their carts, more concerned with flirting with Prairie View A&M female students than fixing Prairie View A&M housing. I am aware that it is not all the maintenance staff but it is a majority and it is unacceptable. The carts are to be used to come to the "rescue" of the residents, though I can say I have never had a maintenance man come

to my rescue or the rescue of anyone I know. It is often days before maintenance arrives to fix anything. This is understandable due to the number of requests that go to their office, but to say they "come to our rescue" is a bit of a stretch.

I am very sure that if the maintenance men responded as quickly to the problems in the Village as they did to the article in *The Panther*, a lot of the gossip would decrease. Maybe, just maybe if Mr. Smith is having issues fulfilling the duties of his job and is unhappy with the environment where he is obviously forced to be, he should go into another line of work.

--Asheli Atkins

## PURPLE & GOLD POLL

By Ronald Smith  
Photo Editor

### How do you plan to relax during Spring Break?



"I plan on getting a lot of sleep and going to the beach and spending time with my family."

**Joshua Grimes**  
Junior  
Mechanical Engineering



"I plan on sleeping in on mornings and I also want to try to take off work so I can go out for a day of shopping."

**Shavon Dunson**  
Sophomore  
Education



"I'm going to California and chilling out on the beach."

**Stanley Ashley**  
Sophomore  
Criminal Justice



"I plan on sleeping and studying for my MCAT exam that I have coming up."

**Alicia Carr**  
Junior  
Biology



"I plan on hanging with my grandfather in the country and spend some more time with him."

**Kimberley Hunter**  
Freshman  
Biology



"I want to go swimming and I want to get some more sleep in."

**Jarrett Johnson**  
Freshman  
Mechanical Engineering

# Back to back to back SWAC regular season champions



**Lead by example:** Hall of Fame nominee, Cynthia Cooper-Dyke, led the Lady Panthers to another SWAC title. This is PVAMU's third consecutive regular season championship.

All photos by Ronald Smith

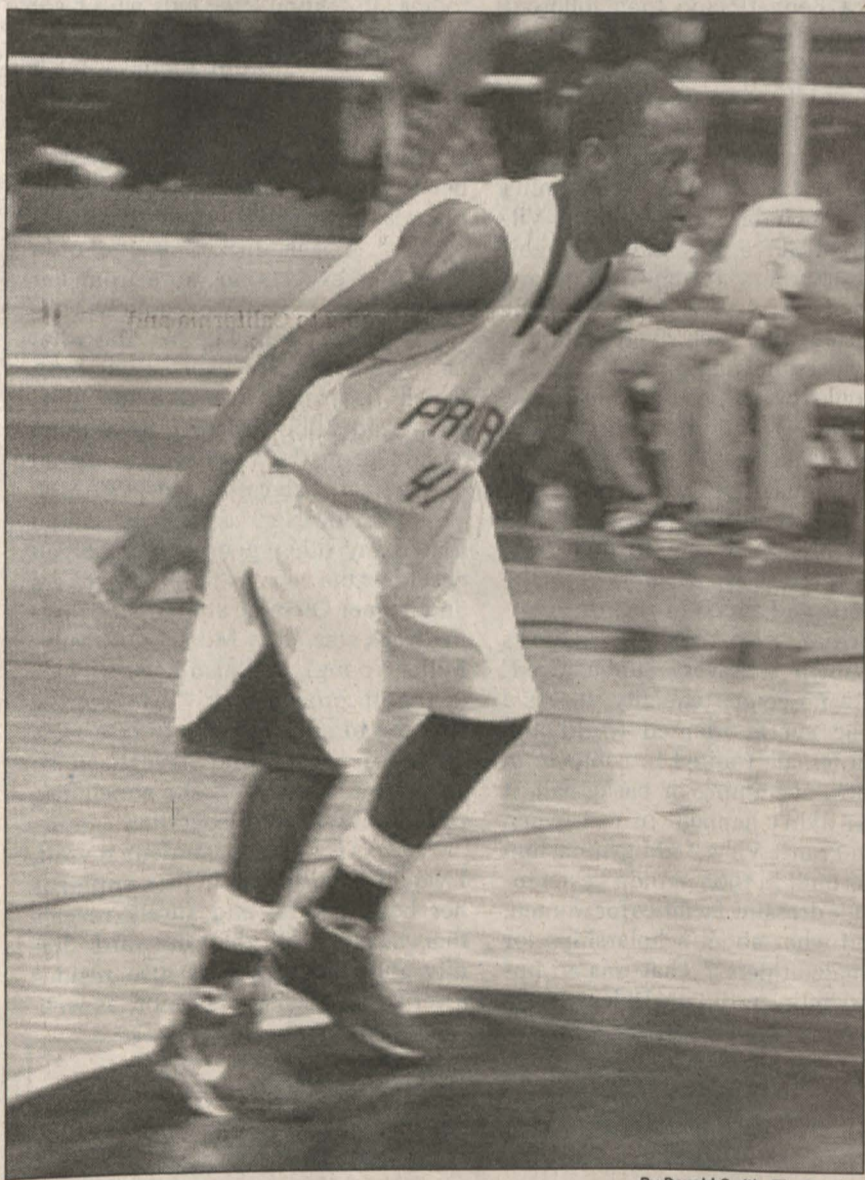


**Top performers:** Candice Thomas (top right) and Gaati Werema (top left) led the Lady Panthers in points averaging 13.1 and 11.6, respectively. They are geared for the post-season.

## SWAC Tournament Schedule

#1 Prairie View vs. #8 Grambling State  
Wednesday March 11 5:30 p.m.  
in Fair Park Arena Birmingham, Ala.

## Panthers secure third seed in SWAC tourney



By Ronald Smith, The Panther

**Rumble young man, rumble:** Freshman sensation Tim Meadows contributed 39 points in the last two victories.

By Nastashia Matlock  
Panther Intern

The Panthers held down the fort during their two home games Thursday, March 5 against the Alcorn State Braves and Saturday, March 7 against the Southern Jaguars in the William "Billy" J. Nicks Baby Dome.

The Panthers (14-15, 10-6) were battling for third place in the SWAC standings with the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff Golden Lions (10-7). The teams split their season series with Prairie View taking the 66-64 win in Texas while the UAPB grabbed a 67-62 win in Arkansas.

The first home game of the set saw the Braves visit Waller County for a 7:30 p.m. matchup. Both teams battled back and forth during the first half with neither team ever leading by more than two points. The crowd got hyped up when a rim-rattling dunk by junior forward Darnell Hugee tied the game at 13-13 with 15:33 left in the half, but the close swapping of points continued until the 7:30 mark when Hugee made

one of two attempted free throws to give the Panthers their first lead of the half 25-24.

From then on the Panthers continued to lead and ended the half with a lay-up by senior forward Jacoie Shivers, increasing the margin to 44-32.

The Panthers returned to the floor excited to seal another win but the Braves came out with another mind-set. The Panthers didn't let the Braves within nine points until the 14:28 mark when a three-pointer from Braves player Anthony Ford brought the score to 49-43.

With 1:26 remaining in the game, both teams felt intense pressure when the score read 77-74 after a free throw made by Hugee. A few seconds later ASU's Jonathan Boyd busted a three-pointer tying the game at 77 with 1:02 left in the game.

During the next possession freshman guard Tim Meadows missed a jumper which would be the last attempt at a shot for the Panthers in regulation. Fortunately, the Panthers got the ball back after an ASU turnover, but then Dorian McDaniel got the ball stolen by Troy Jackson

leading to two 30-second time-outs from Alcorn. After the timeout, with eight seconds left, a missed lay-up was grabbed by Alcorn's Gifford Blakely who attempted a put-back that was rejected by Hugee taking the game into overtime.

The Braves had no chance in overtime with the Panthers dominating with a 20-6 run resulting in a 97-83 win for the Panthers. Meadows led the team in scoring with 26 points while Hugee had a double-double with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Christopher Jones also made a major contribution with nine assists and 13 rebounds.

On Saturday, March 7, the Panthers made it look easy by stifling the Jags of Southern University on their annual senior night. Coach Byron Rimm III paid contribution to the vets by starting all four seniors including guard Derek Johnson, and forwards Shivers, Blake Thompson, and Ahmed Khalfan for their last home game of their college career.

Shivers made the most of his last introduction by running into the stands to get the fans into the game. He held up his "View" shooting shirt, pumped his arms, and yelled as the crowd joined in the fun. Khalfan also enjoyed his last home appearance with a rendition of Shaq's superman intro. He jumped into four teammates' arms as they carried him a couple feet through the row of Panther cheerleaders.

The game would eventually become as exciting as the intros but the first half started off slow. The crowd did, however, become ecstatic as their Panthers went from a 9-9 tie at the 13:51 mark to pulling away with the game. The Panthers went on a 33-13 run to end the half. Their dynamic defense forced 16 turnovers, most of which came in the first half of play. The Panthers scored their last nine points within the last 1:51 mark of the half with Meadows swishing a three-pointer at the end of the half making the halftime score 42-22.

The Panthers held their lead deep into the second half, reaching their final score of 76 at the 1:02 mark after Johnson put in a lay-up. The Jaguars also had a productive second half, scoring 38 points to end the game with 60.

Johnson led the Panthers with 18 points and two assists, McDaniel dropped in 14 points and seven rebounds, and Shivers contributed 10 points.

With the two home wins, the Panthers secured the third place seed in the SWAC tournament and they will play their first game in the SWAC tournament against the Mississippi Valley State Devils on Thursday, March 12, at 5:30 p.m. in Birmingham, Ala.

## Baseball team plays two in Arkansas

By Rodney Palmer  
Panther Intern

The men's baseball team entered the diamond March 7 in a double header against the Golden Lions of Arkansas Pine Bluff at Regional Park in Arkansas.

Game one was a dismal contest as the Panthers were shut-out 2-0 due to the Lions' dynamic pitching staff. The Panthers had 22 at bats with a dwindling two hits. All was not appalling for the Panthers as the pitching force, led by pitcher Terry Salter, held the Lions' batters to only four hits and a mere two runs after six innings pitched.

The Panthers looked to redeem themselves from that daunting loss as they literally came out swinging in game 2. The Golden Lions' pitching personnel came out a bit rattled as outfielder Myrio Richard reached base due to an error. Infielder Odie Davis responded with a single followed by a hasty stolen base. Catcher Brandon Whitby would smack a sharp single through the infield bringing in Richard and Davis for the score. Whitby would later score a third run due to a

passed ball.

UAPB would answer scoring two runs of their own in the bottom of the third inning, but Whitby would continue his colossal day scoring another run in the fourth inning, putting the Panthers up 5-2.

The intensity began to heat up in the bottom of the fifth inning and the tide began to turn as the Lions' attempted to make it a contest scoring two more runs. But the Panthers would quickly bounce back in the top of the sixth with a clutch hit and a score from outfielder Brandon Kendrick.

The Panthers would ultimately put the Golden Lions away for good in the eighth inning after an RBI double from catcher George McDonald and an RBI single from infielder John Villapando sealing the deal 7-5. Pitcher Mark Almaguer pitched a fine game going six innings allowing four hits and four runs. Pitcher Benjamin Blackburn closed the game hurling for two innings allowing three hits, one run, and two strikeouts.

The Panthers boosted their record to 8-4, 2-3 in conference play. The squad will travel to Beaumont, Texas, March 10-11 in a double header face-off with the Lamar Cardinals.

## Softball team goes 0-3 during roundup

By Dontae McCrary  
Panther Staff

The women's softball team played in the SWAC roundup March 6-7. The tournament pitted the SWAC west teams against the SWAC east teams.

On the first day of competition the Panthers faced a 5-1 Mississippi Valley team. Unfortunately, the Lady Panthers pitching staff also ran into the hot Lady Devilettes' offense. Valley scored two runs in the second and third innings before a three run homer in the fourth inning really broke the game open, 9-0. The Lady Panthers struggled offensively, but threatened the MVSU defense in the bottom of the fourth inning. That inning the Lady Panthers loaded the bases, but could score only one run., losing to Valley with a final score of 10-1 in five innings.

The first game of the second day came against the Lady Tigers who had two dominant offensive innings to take the win, 9-1. In the second inning, Jackson State scored five runs, while batting around the order, and four runs in the sixth inning. The Lady Panthers left four players on base while

the Lady Tigers drove in runs with six RBIs. Combined with the Lady Panthers' struggles at the plate and a good pitching performance from the ladies of Mississippi, Prairie View dropped their second game in a row.

In the second game of the day, the Lady Panthers faced Alcorn State. This contest proved to be encouraging for the Lady Panthers as they held the Lady Braves to only six runs. Again, PVAMU would leave runners on base in crucial moments while ASU drove runs in.

The Lady Braves had a big fifth inning, scoring three runs off of timely hits and some great baserunning. The Lady Panthers' offense, consequently, only got four hits in the game and scored the team's only runs in the seventh inning. An unassisted ground-out down the first base line with runners on second and third ended the Lady Panthers come back hopes.

Prairie View struck out in three games to their in-conference opponents, but they also got an opportunity to witness those teams before later, more important contests.

The Lady Panthers' will be in action again March 11 against UT Arlington in Arlington, Texas. They also travel to Baylor and Texas Southern during the school break.

# Women's Her-story Month

March declared Women's History Month

By Shuntia Wheeler  
Panther Contributor

Are you aware of Women's History Month? Do you understand its significance? The celebration of women's history began in 1978 as "Women's History Week" in Sonoma County, Calif. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month, and March was declared "Women's History Month." Women have become a force to reckon with since the beginning of time and after struggling to become more to society than a man's trophy, women have taken an even stronger stand in society by overcoming and persevering to becoming better women in all aspects of their lives. This month on the campus of Prairie View A&M University we are celebrating along with the entire country "Women's History Month." There are various events taking place on campus open to all faculties, staff, and the general public. This year's theme is "Reigniting the Spirit of Sisterhood." On Tuesday, March 3,

at 7 p.m. a movie and discussion was held inside the MSC-Student Lounge located on the 2nd floor. Dr. Carol Adams-Means, a professor in the Department of Languages and Communications, held a discussion panel for the movie "Imitation of Life" (1934). Other films included in Adams-Means film series include: "The Imitation of Life," (1959), "The Daughters of the Dust," and "Eve's Bayou" directed by Kasi Lemon. The movie made its first debut in 1934. In 1935 it was nominated for three Academy Awards including one for Best Picture. In 1959, it debuted on the big screen for a second time.

This is the story of Bea Fuller (Claudette Colbert) and Delilah Johnson (Louise Beavers), two single mothers raising their daughters Jesse and Peola. Delilah is the mother of an extremely light-complexion daughter, who despises the very thought of being black. Her conflict is she is not white enough on the outside to be accepted in a racially biased society. She is painfully aware of the disparate treatment between blacks and whites. She is embarrassed and disgusted by her mom, a dark-skinned African-American woman and her cul-

ture. She denies her mother and lives her life passing as a white woman. She holds on to this hate for the rest of her mother's life. It is not until her mother passing that Peola realizes how much time she has allowed to pass due to her own self-hatred. After the death of her mother she realizes the torment and pain she has caused her mother all these years. At her mother's funeral she begs for forgiveness, but it was too late. Delilah's death was due to the heartache Peola caused her.

Bea ensures that Delilah's funeral is just as she requested it to be. Bea also struggles with her daughter and the man she loves. Jesse has fallen madly in love with her mother's fiancé, Steven. They are both in love with the same man. Steven is unaware of Jesse's affection for him. Bea is aware of this and she is forced to end her relationship with her fiancé.

The stakes are high and so is the price of love. The movie surrounds the quest for love and its value amid the background of racial disparities. By the end of the movie each character pays a significant price for love and life in a racially divided society.

## COACH JACKET RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Women's coach gets recognized

By Linda Du Four  
Panther Contributor

Some of us were born to be leaders - to accomplish great things despite adversity along the way. One of these great "leaders" is a woman well known on the Prairie View A&M University campus; Barbara Jacket, a member of the Panther women's coaching staff since 1964. She began by coaching swimming, and a couple of years later, organized the first campus women's track team, not only is she credited with a long tenure of coaching and teaching, but for her success as the head coach for the 1992 U.S. Olympic Women's Track and Field team.

Great accomplishments in today's society are always recognized, and the media have made it possible for Jacket to receive her share of accolades. The first was in an autobiographical inclusion in *Twenty Two Texas Women*, authored by mother and daughter team Michele and Barbara Bennett; and then followed by a more extensive feature in *Texas Wise Women Speak* by B.J. Pierce. The Austin-based author included Jacket's story among other famous women, including Liz Carpenter, Wilhelmina Delco, Linda Ellerbee, Juliet Villarreal Garza, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Barbara Jordan and others. However, a new book featuring Jacket, and exclusively detailing her personal and professional life, should be in print by next year.

What propels a woman like Jacket to excel despite the hardships of poverty in her childhood Port Arthur homestead, and the prejudices concerning race, which were so proliferate in the 1950s and 1960s in regard to minorities? Also, the women's sports segment was very "unbalanced" with no gender equality. It was a male sports-oriented world and if a female wanted to compete in track, swimming or basketball, it just didn't happen. In fact, when the Prairie View A&M gymnasium was built in 1964, it didn't even include dressing facilities for women. And what about scholarships for female athletes? That was an impossibility until Title IX legislation

forced the sports elitists to offer scholarships and accommodate facilities for women's sports, according to Jacket.

A fierce sense of competition was the factor that instigated Jacket to overcome race and gender biases, which resulted in her "claim to fame," as a child, and then later as head coach for the 1992 Olympic Women's Track and Field team. Her women's sports program at PVAMU, of course, extended her competitive spirit and she began to receive coaching positions in international competition through her determination to make her players "winners." Then only a decade later, came the Pan American games and world championships.

"I was born wanting to compete...it was in my blood then and still is, although now it is directed toward my physical education and coaching students," said Jacket.

However, sports competition isn't the only word in Jacket's repertoire, but the importance of academics and using one's talents to succeed in life is high on her priority list. With a hint of a smile, but a gleam in her eye, Jacket is always ready to convey her philosophy for those who want to hear it: "When I see kids who have potential that they aren't developing, I raise hell with them. I push them to do what they are capable of."

Jacket's former students can attest to their coach's firm belief in self-discipline and exhibiting respect for themselves and others.

"Coach Jacket is one of a kind. She expects no more from her students than what she would be willing to give. I really like her and what she stands for. She expects our best, which has made me a better person," said Billie Holstein, a teaching candidate in the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education at PVAMU.

However, Jacket is elated that many other people who helped chart her life such as family members and former Olympic students, including track star Mary Miller (now Mary Miller Young), will also have a place in the upcoming book. "B.J. (Pierce) is going to great lengths to interview all those people who have been so important in my life," she concludes, then smiles that beguiling smile.

As a former student myself, I would have to say it (her smile) is her best feature, and surely reveals that beneath all that outward dignity and tenacity, there also resides a very active sense of humor, as well.

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CONTACT MAJ CAMPBELL AT 936-261-1600 OR [TACAMPBELL@PVAMU.EDU](mailto:TACAMPBELL@PVAMU.EDU). FOR INSTANT INFORMATION TEXT, 'PVAMU' TO 76821 (ROTCT)

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# Watchmen hits theaters

By Dalynn Stinson &  
Jerrell Allen  
Panther Staff & Managing Editor

If you enjoy super heroes from the 1940s and '50s, "Watchmen" is definitely a movie you need to catch. The long-believed unfilmable "Watchmen" has finally arrived on movie screens, amid a flurry of fan boy expectation and speculation. The results of this movie will leave those who truly enjoy comic books very pleased.

"Watchmen" takes place in an alternate 1985 which finds Richard Nixon serving his sixth term as president after term limits have been repealed following his success in winning the war in Vietnam, the world on the brink of annihilation as the United States and Russia play an ever-expanding game of nuclear chicken, and the actual existence of superheroes/caped crusaders (the characters are all normal people with no superhuman abilities, a la Batman, with the exception of one character who develops superhuman abilities after an accident in a nuclear fission chamber), although their activities have been deemed illegal by an act of law (save for the few that act as governmental pawns).

When one of his former colleagues is murdered, the washed-up but no less determined masked vigilante Rorschach sets out to uncover a plot to kill and discredit all past and present superheroes. As he reconnects with his former crime-fighting legion - a ragtag group of retired superheroes, only one of whom has true powers - Rorschach glimps-



Courtesy of Google

es a wide-ranging and disturbing conspiracy with links to their shared past and catastrophic consequences for the future.

The movie's plot unfolds against the background of visually attention-grabbing sequences, moments of extreme (even sadistic) violence contrasting perpetually-spinning glass prisms swirling against a barren Martian landscape, paying homage to the original illustrations of the comic book. If nothing else, the movie does a great job capturing

the aesthetic of its source material.

The decision to use full frontal male nudity was fine for the print medium but once translated to film, it becomes a distraction. Add to that the disappointing acting performances from most of the cast (notable exceptions being Jackie Earle Haley as the sociopathic, ultra-conservative Rorschach and Patrick Wilson as the anxiety-ridden Dan Dreiberger) and "Watchmen" may leave a disappointing taste in your mouth.

# Who's who in Prairie View...

By Carlton Lockett  
Panther Staff

Uniquka Johnson's elegant and dressy casual clothing line UJ Fashions is the perfect illustration to that quote. Johnson's clothing line is often compared to Betsey Johnson's fun, elegant and ready to wear spring collection. Uniquka Johnson is a senior business marketing major from Dallas, Texas. After graduation in December, Uniquka would like to obtain financial support with an investment firm or sponsorship organization to start her business in Houston, Texas. Fashion to Uniquka is an expression of yourself, originality, and individualism, and that is precisely what she strives for. Uniquka is definitely original, and independent when it comes to her designs. Johnson said, "It's not like I have a contractor or sweat shop in which people would do things for me, I do everything on my own."

The fashion industry is one of the most competitive industries in

the world, because one day you're in and the next day you're out. That doesn't intimidate the confident and hard working designer who believes that someday her collection will be featured in, Mercedes-Benz Fashion week in New York City, New York.

Uniquka just recently showcased her designs at Prairie View A&M's first annual fashion week.

As for now Uniquka will continue to work hard and showcase her designs with the hopes of expanding her collection over the United States. She specializes in tailoring, togas, alterations, costume design, dance wear, and personal creations. Johnson can be contacted by phone (469) 226-5362 or by email [ujfashions@yahoo.com](mailto:ujfashions@yahoo.com)

Johnson would like to give thanks to Prairie View A&M because the campus does a great job showcasing individual's talent, regardless if it is singing, dance, or fashion. She also would like to give thanks to Uniquka's Divas for helping her progress with her success, because Yves Saint Laurent once said "A good model can advance fashion by ten years."



By Ronald Smith, The Panther

## The Official Pre-PV Relay Party

FIRST 100 TO SHOW UP  
WILL BE ENTERED INTO  
A DRAWING TO  
RECEIVE 1 OF 4- \$25.00  
AMERICAN EXPRESS  
GIFT CARDS ALONG  
WITH OTHER GIVE



PANTHER ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH,  
PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION & DANCE

Prairie View A&M University



When: March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Time: 10pm till P.V. U KNOW!!!

Where: Leroy G. Moore Gymnasium (New Gym)

Cost: \$5 (Greek Discounts W/Para - P.V. Track Team Free All Night)

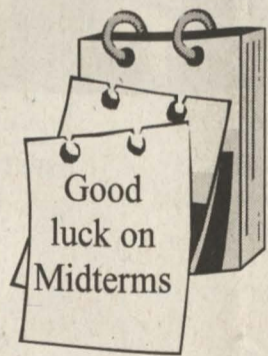
Music By: "THA DJ" of Mastermind Productions



## The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

BE SAFE OVER SPRING BREAK!!



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 summer or fall 2008.

Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick THEA testing schedule or call 936-261-3610.

Building 39 would like to welcome Dr. Angela Branch-Vital as our new Faculty Fellow.

Good luck to all the teams participating in the UCBA tournament!

UC Hosted an Interest meeting of Prairie Students of Foster Care on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. See the Ad elsewhere in The Panther-our next meeting will be March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Panther Room. Questions? Contact: [vivian\\_dorsett@yahoo.com](mailto:vivian_dorsett@yahoo.com).

Prom Dress Drive: Bring your gently used prom dresses to the University College Office of Advisement for the Caring Closet. The deadline is April 1, 2009 Call 936-261-5927 for information.

## Prairie View Students of FOSTER CARE

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

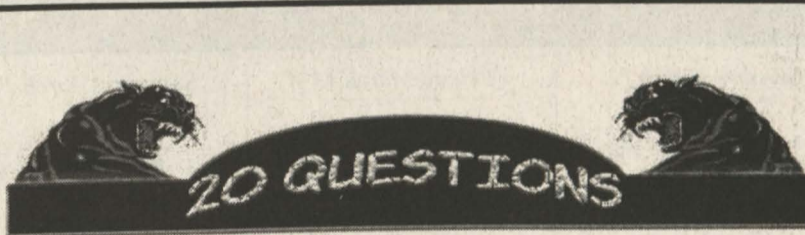
7pm

UC Panther Room

Were you in Foster Care?

Would you like to meet and support fellow students just like you?

Let's get together for snacks and conversation.

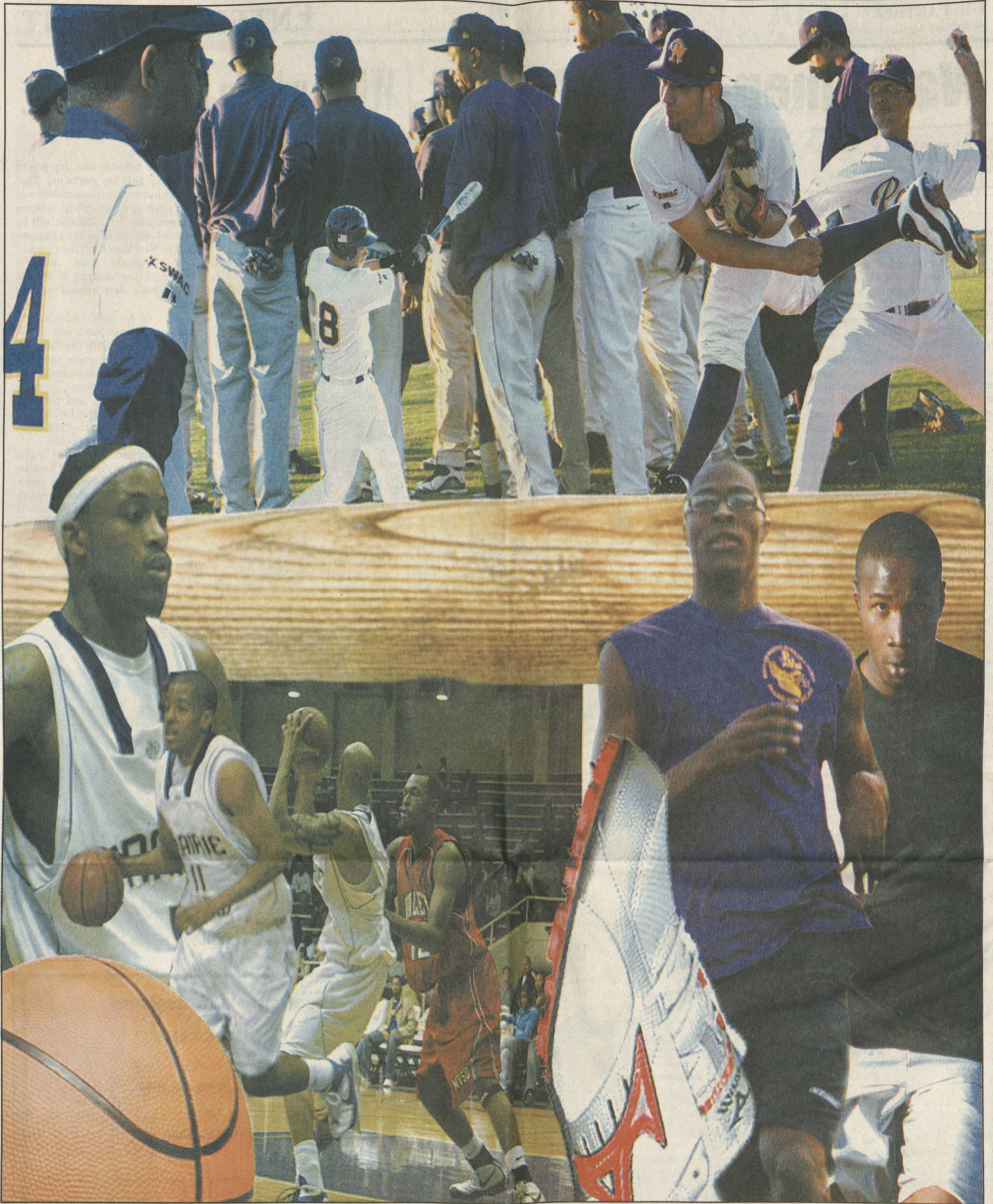


1. Has page four of *The Panther* become the new *20 Questions*?
2. Since SGA wasn't a real challenge, has *The Panther* moved their beef to administration?
3. Who is the cheerleader who uses her Facebook status as her source of matchmaking?
4. Speaking of online dating, how many girls found their men on the down low Web site?
5. How many students skipped past the financial aid article to read *20 Questions*?
6. What CAB member decided to have free lap dance night?
7. Whose baby was getting passed around on game night?
8. Who decided to turn the MSC into a boxing ring?
9. Who tried to hot-wire the golf cart by the fountain?
10. Now that it's warm, how many big girls will dress like they are skinny?
11. Will President Wright's Spring Break last until graduation?
12. Do we really believe that a maintenance man from the Village wrote that response last week?
13. Do we all know it was probably someone from the front office?
14. Where did the band director go?
15. Are you going to go back and read the financial aid story?
16. Who missed their midterm to get in a fight, and then ended up losing?
17. Which frat is pledging outside the MSC at night?
18. Who is praying they won't get caught on camera this Spring Break going live?
19. Who was the genius that recorded a fight and put it on Facebook?
20. What do you think?

Like or dislike what you see? Send your questions to [panther@pvamu.edu](mailto:panther@pvamu.edu) or The Panther Newspaper on Facebook

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](mailto:panther@pvamu.edu). Questions are printed at the discretion of *The Panther*.





# This Week On The Hill

**Thursday, March 12**

Mid-Semester Examination Period  
  
Women's History Month Administration Auditorium  
  
Sigma Tau Theta Sigma Tau Theta Seminar Senate Chambers  
  
Women's Council for Leadership Eve's Bayou Movie & Discussion Student Center Lounge  
  
Young Leaders for Christ Bible Study WR Banks Rm. 205  
  
FOCCS Bible Study, Student Center Lounge

**Friday, March 13**

Mid-Semester Examination Period

**Saturday, March 14**

Mid-Semester Examination Period  
  
Mary Crawford Wedding Reception Student Center Ballroom Section A

**Sunday, March 15**

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

**Monday, March 16**

SPRING BREAK

**Tuesday, March 17**

SPRING BREAK

Mid-Semester Grades Due

**Wednesday, March 18**

SPRING BREAK

**Weather**

						
Colder with periods of rain	Rainy	Mainly cloudy, rain possible	Mostly sunny and warmer	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Plenty of sunshine	Plenty of sunshine
High: 52 °F Low: 45 °F	High: 50 °F Low: 45 °F	High: 57 °F Low: 45 °F	High: 71 °F Low: 55 °F	High: 71 °F Low: 50 °F	High: 74 °F Low: 55 °F	High: 79 °F Low: 48 °F