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The Panther

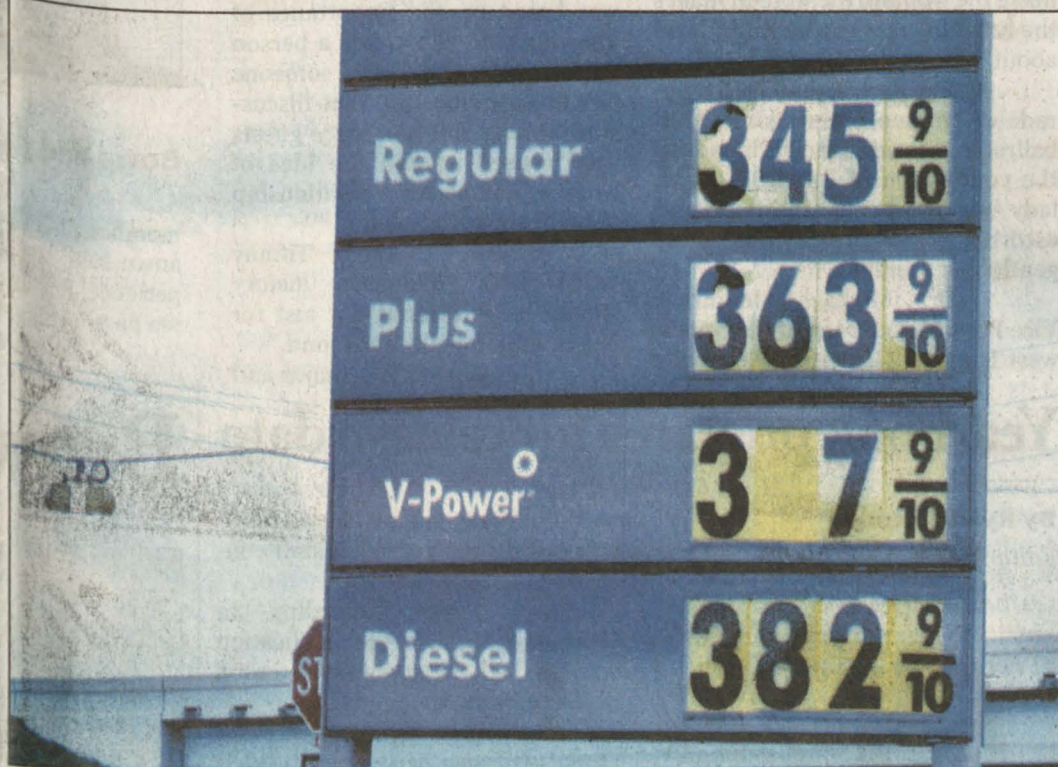


Volume 90, Issue 19

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

pvpanther.com

Oil, gas prices hit hard



By Ryan J. Rudd
Editor-in-Chief

As turmoil continues to spread in Middle Eastern and African countries, turmoil is also beginning to brew at gas stations nationwide as consumer sovereignty does not favor the sharp increases in gas prices.

Recent revolutions in Libya and Egypt have caused oil prices to soar above \$100 per barrel and they now stand at \$105 per barrel.

For the past three weeks, gas prices have risen continually. The regional average stood at around \$2.80 in late January.

According to texasgasprices.com, the average price per gallon is \$3.40, a 60 percent increase from a little over a month ago.

Many students are experiencing difficulty trying to navigate through the rough times presented by inflation of gas prices.

Assuming the average student drives an economy-sized vehicle, which has a gas

tank capacity ranging from 11-16 gallons, students could be paying anywhere between \$37-\$55 for a full tank of gas.

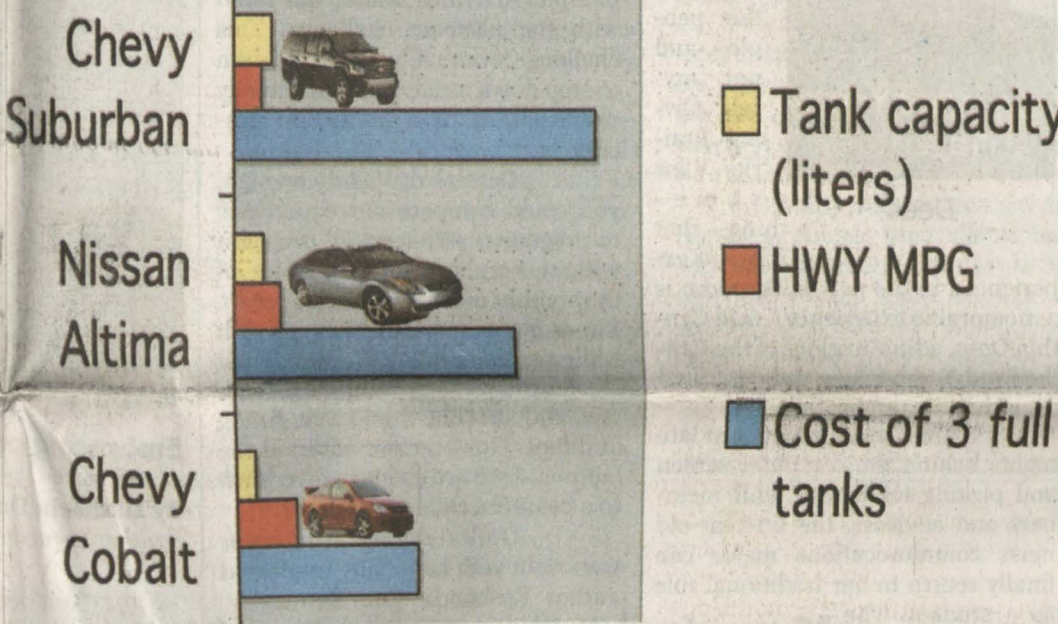
For students driving a sports utility vehicle, a full tank could cost around \$88, assuming the tank size is the average, 26 gallons.

July 2008 brought along a record high \$4.11 per gallon. Congress and consumers both worry about this trend repeating itself.

In an effort to avoid this, Congress has been pressuring the Obama administration to tap into the 727 million barrel oil reserve, something that has seldom occurred since the reserve was created in the 1970s.

According to economists, the oil reserve has an estimated 37 days worth of supplies for U.S. drivers.

Junior nursing major Beverly Tucker said, "Since the price of gas has increased, I have to be more conscious. I miss Monday, Wednesday, and Friday tutorials because I had to cut down on trips. I had to change my schedule so that I only have Tuesday and Thursday classes."



Graphics by Aaron Gray, Photos by Ryan J. Rudd, The Panther

Moving on up: Gas prices near Prairie View are above the estimated statewide average by at least five cents per gallon.

One win shy of gold Bowling team falls short of big strike

By Ryan J. Rudd
Editor-in-Chief

"It's a bit frustrating to lose to the same team back-to-back seasons," head coach Glenn White said in response to the 0.5 point loss his team suffered in the championship game against Southern University Sunday evening.

After earning a No. 4 seed in the preliminary round of the tournament, the Lady Panthers cruised through the tournament and earned a birth in the championship round to face the No. 6 seed Lady Jaguars.

During the first match of the double-elimination series, the Panthers prevailed over Southern 4-1.

The second match of the series proved to be a turning point in the match, as both teams were tied at 173, and the battle for the championship seemed to be in favor of either team.

However, after a series of seesaw lead

changes, Southern finally went on to win the seventh 202-179, forcing the Lady Panthers to join them in a game-deciding roll-off.

White said, "The atmosphere was electrifying and competitive. There were many spectators, including supporters from a local bowling league. Knowing that we had to beat them twice made it an intense situation be-

"If we can do it with those odds against us, we expect to bring home the trophy next year."

cause we were going back and forth the entire match."

During the roll-off, the Lady Jaguars prevailed 204-163 to win their first SWAC championship title since 2009, and the seventh in school history.

In his seventh season as head coach, his first as a full-time occupant of the position, White says after beating Southern the first time he was comfortable with the team's strategy.

He admits that injuries did play a factor in the overall success of the season. He had lost two players to eligibility, and had one player was recovering from Christmas-break surgery.

White said, "This year was different because we lost our best bowler to eligibility. This, added with injuries, left us with only five players, the minimum requirement for competition. This alone meant that we would play without player substitutions, a factor no other team was faced with."

After participating in the three-day tournament that would determine the SWAC champions, White and his squad are optimistic about beginning next season.

White said, "We pushed through injuries and eligibility issues. If we can do it with those odds against us, we expect to bring home the trophy next year."

According to SWAC.Org, the championship match was televised in a tape-delayed format and will air on Friday, March 11 at 4:30 p.m. on ESPNU.

Search begins for award recipients

By Scheane Brown
Panther Contributor

As the midterm point of the semester approaches, the search for the 2011 Prairie View A&M University Humanitarian Award recipients has begun.

As a campus that prides itself on its service to the community, PVAMU wanted to encourage and inspire its students to promote contribution to social change through action. During the 2004-2005 academic school year, Prairie View crafted an annual award to recognize a student and a non-student that exemplify what it means to be a true humanitarian.

"The Humanitarian Award recognizes individuals whose lives reflect their dedication to Prairie View's highest humanitarian principles. It is for those whose lives clearly exemplify a 'spirit of love and helpfulness to others,'" explained Neal Baines, assistant to the administrator and human resources Officer and member of the selection committee. "In other words, one must demonstrate passion or love in the course of their life for others. This involves, but is not limited to, going out of their way to show love and to help others when in need," he said.

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Sunny 0% Chance of Precip. High: 73 °F Low: 44 °F	Mostly Sunny 0% Chance of Precip. High: 74 °F Low: 52 °F	Partly Cloudy 20% Chance of Precip. High: 76 °F Low: 59 °F	Mostly Cloudy 10% Chance of Precip. High: 73 °F Low: 59 °F	Scattered T-Storms 40% Chance of Precip. High: 72 °F Low: 56 °F	Partly Cloudy 10% Chance of Precip. High: 76 °F Low: 53 °F	Mostly Sunny 10% Chance of Precip. High: 77 °F Low: 56 °F

West delivers "Hatititude" address

By Gifty Gyebi
Copy Editor

In honor of Women's History Month, the Women's Leadership Council hosted its 3rd annual "Hatititude" Bows and Brims Tea Party Wednesday evening.

The First Lady of the Church Without Walls, Sheretta West, attended the tea party, as she does every year. Standing beside a display of hats, West asserted her love for hats. "The hat does not make the woman; the woman makes the hat. That is what 'hatititude' is all about," she said.

The party began with a parade of women entering the MSC ballroom wearing fanciful hats with the young men of B.L.A.C.K. Each lady was greeted at the door and escorted to her table by one of the gentlemen present.

Dr. Michael McFrazier, Vice Provost and Dean of the Northwest Houston Center, spoke briefly

on the concept of chivalry. "If you ladies will expect chivalry, young men will surely rise to the occasion." In keeping with the spirit of chivalry, ladies were served tea first.

The council struck up conversation by reading a quote by actress, dancer, activist, and author Shirley MacLaine: "I don't need a man to rectify my existence. The most profound relationship we will ever have is the one with ourselves."

The dialogue question was based on the importance of knowing who you are as a person before getting to know someone else in a relationship. The discussion among the tea party guests was focused around the idea of women looking for a relationship to make them complete.

Miss PVAMU Tiffany Ward said, "Women's history should be celebrated not just for one month, but all year round."

Junior biology major and



By Andre Williams, The Panther

Bows and Brims: Ladies and gentlemen chat in tea party.

member of B.L.A.C.K. Brian Anyanwu said, "It was a different experience. I'm not used to being in a tea party setting."

To conclude the evening,

the Women's Leadership Council announced senior agricultural economics major Gabrielle Washington as the winner of the Women's History Month writing contest.

Yearbook prepares for release date

By Ryan J. Rudd
Editor-in-Chief



Dees

experienced in the new millennium is a memorable experience," said Cynthia Dees, editor in chief of The Panther and Yearbook as she described resurging the publication.

After seven months of late nights behind the computer screen and picking teeth with staff members and advisors, the 20-year-old mass communications major can finally return to her traditional role as a student. The yearbook staff met its final deadline last week.

With an estimated 10 deadlines originally set in August, Dees says the challenge to produce a yearbook was difficult because they were in a push to beat competing entities for production.

Using Taylor Publishing Company, a Dallas-based company established in 1939, the yearbook was forced to compete with elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and other universities listed within Taylor's list of clients.

For the yearbook staff, meeting deadlines would be much easier said than done.

In addition to having to compete with other schools using the same publisher, Dees and her staff were forced into the role of historians. They had to capture 11 years worth of lost memories that went uncovered since the last yearbook was published in 1999.

Dees and her staff along with primary advisor Orok Orok, managed this task by providing editors with early deadlines that were much sooner than those set by the publisher. Orok also serves as program coordinator for the Office of Student Activities and Leadership.

Dees said over time, this called for both her and Orok to step outside of their roles.

When the production process began, the yearbook staff consisted of 10 editors.

However, according to Dees, by the time the publication was finished, there were only a total of four editors remaining.

With a shortage of staff, Orok, who also serves as an advisor for the student newspaper and Campus Activities Board, was faced with the ultimate challenge. This challenge eventually called for him to step down as advisor and actually participate in the production process.

Dees said, "Oddly enough, you could compare our experience to pregnancy. We were all pregnant with this unborn child because of the amount of work we had to put in. But as a good parent, you can't quit while you're in labor. Every day felt like morning sickness, tossing, turning, and craving to do something different. However, we endured the labor and we are about to give birth to a beautiful child; a yearbook."

Orok's duties as advisor were split with nationally renowned author Reshonda Tate Billingsley, author of "Let The Church S a y A m e n" and "Nothing but Drama," who served as the content advisor for the yearbook's staff.

Married to Miron P. Billingsley, associate vice president for student affairs, Billingsley's schedule as a professional author prevented her from being a full-time occupant in the office.

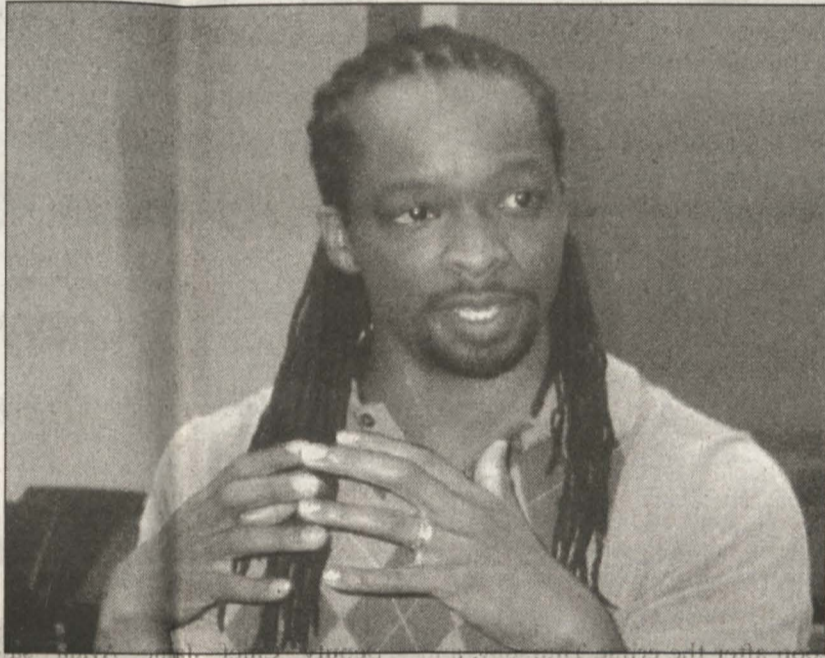
However, with all odds against them, seven months and 256 pages later, the yearbook staff is now waiting on the arrival of their product in early May.

With an estimated 1,500 issues on order, Dees seemed excited about a number of different sections in the yearbook, including the fashion spread, which shows the variety of self-expressing apparel students at PV display, and the stereotypes pages, which were designed to attract attention to issues around campus that are often overlooked.

Dees says that she also feels alumni will be pleased with the outcome of the yearbook and the effort the staff put into including their last years.

The yearbook is expected to arrive early May 2011, with student prices set at \$55 and alumni prices set at \$65.

Brown shares poetry



Courtesy of Damaris Daniels

Embracing poetry: Brown opens up about his poetic passion.

By Damaris Daniels
Panther Contributor

American poet Jericho Brown visited Prairie View A&M University to share his success story and multiple poems in his award-winning book, "Please."

He entered the room and after a very brief introduction, he took a long pause, glared across the room to grasp everyone's attention, and began reciting his poetry.

The first poem he read from his newly released book was titled "Excuse Me." Brown read his words with pain in his voice and eyes, showing his emotions to the audience.

He then went on to another poem titled "Memory Lane," which was inspired by one of his musical influences, Minnie Riperton. Brown's poem "Autobiography" seemed to be a crowd favorite. Brown altered his voice to fit the comical mood of his poem. His words were humorous, and he also managed to incorporate singing into his delivery.

Brown shared with the audience that he loves doing his

poetry readings at historically black colleges and universities because the audience is able to recognize the musical influences in his poetry and understands—in his own words—"what the hell he is talking about when he mentions Minnie Riperton."

The artist spoke of his future hopes for the evolution of poetry. He believes that as poetry evolves, poets of different genres will become more accepting of each other's work and learn to appreciate something that has nothing to do with what they deal with on a regular basis.

Brown said, "The only way we can continue having great literature in the future is to embrace other cultures, backgrounds, and genres of others poets."

Brown received his doctoral degree in creative writing and literature from the University of Houston. He also received a master's degree in fine arts from the University of New Orleans and a bachelor's degree from Dillard University. He is currently teaching creative writing and poetry courses at the University of San Diego.

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Prairie View A&M University
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Police Blotter

Information obtained in this report has been reported to dispatch and officers responded to these calls.

Week of Sunday, Feb. 27 to Saturday, Mar. 5

Sunday, Feb. 27

□ 8:38 p.m., Officer was dispatched to Phase II apartment complex in reference to a disturbance call. Officer advised students to keep it down. Returned to service.

Monday, Feb. 28

□ 4:17 a.m., Officer was dispatched to Phase III apartment complex clubhouse in reference to an alarm. Officer advised that location was secured.

□ 6:48 a.m., Officer was dispatched to Phase II apartment complex building 15 in reference to an alarm. Officer advised that alarm was turned off by CA.

□ 10:11 p.m., Officer was dispatched to Phase I apartment complex in reference to a disturbance. Officer advised that student was evicted, and other suspects where given criminal trespass warnings.

Tuesday, Mar. 1

□ 1:16 a.m., Officer was dispatched to Phase II apartment complex building 13, room 1324 in reference to a medical call. Student was transported to Brenham hospital.

Wednesday, Mar. 2

□ 1:17 a.m., Officer was dispatched to University College in reference to a medical call. Officer advised that students refused transport.

□ 7:26 p.m., Officer met with a student who walked into the police department to report a stolen purse. Report taken.

Thursday, Mar. 3

□ 2:27 a.m., Officer was dispatched to Phase II apartment complex in reference to a harassment report. Officer advised that student refused to make a report.

□ 8:49 a.m., Officer met with a student who walked into the police department to report stolen property. Report taken.

□ 8:50 a.m., Officer met with a staff member who walked into the police department for an information report. Report taken.

□ 4:58 p.m., Officer was dispatched to Phase I apartment complex in reference to an information report. Report taken.

□ 9:19 p.m., Officer provided an escort for a university staff member to the goat farm.

Friday, Mar. 4

□ 7:13 p.m., Officer was dispatched to University College in reference to a report of slashed tires. Officer advised that tires needed air.

Saturday, Mar. 5

□ 12:56 p.m., Officer was dispatched to Hobart Taylor in reference to a medical call. Student was transported to Brenham hospital.



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Guatemalan passport allowed in Cuba

By Juan Carlos Llorca
Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas - A federal judge in the immigration fraud trial of a former CIA operative decided Monday to admit into evidence a Guatemalan passport with the man's photo in it a setback for the Cuban militant's defense.

At least three of the 11 counts against Luis Posada Carriles obstruction of justice in a terrorism investigation, immigration fraud and perjury accuse him of lying to immigration officials about never having a Guatemalan passport and using the alias Manuel Enrique Castillo Lopez.

Guatemala's director of immigration testified Monday that the passport from his country bearing the picture of Posada is authentic, but was unable to explain why it was issued under the name Castillo Lopez.

Enrique Degenhart said his office issues passports to anyone bearing a Guatemalan national ID, but does not verify that ID's authenticity. He could not explain the discrepancies between the hair, skin

and eye color stated on that ID and Posada's passport photograph.

In February, the defense had persuaded U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone not to admit the passport as evidence on the basis that no Guatemalan official could verify whether it was authentic.

The Cuban-born Posada, 83, spent decades crisscrossing Latin America as a Washington-backed Cold Warrior working to destabilize leftist governments and is considered the nemesis of former Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Aside from allegedly lying about the passport and alias, prosecutors claim Posada knowingly made false statements while seeking American citizenship during immigration hearings in El Paso about how he sneaked into the U.S. in March 2005. They also allege he denied a role in planning a series of 1997 hotel bombings in Cuba that killed an Italian tourist. Posada has been living in Miami since being released from an immigration lockup in 2007.

Prosecutors say that the national ID presented to request the Guatemalan passport in 2004 was a

"cedula" from San Antonio Huista, a town of about 15,000 inhabitants nestled in the highlands of western Guatemala. They did not say how he might have obtained such document.

Around 2009, municipalities stopped issuing cedula, a form of identity dating from the late 19th century, due to allegations of fabricated identities, fraud and corruption. That document is slowly being replaced by a central government-issued national identity card.

When asked to identify the picture on the passport, Omar Vega, the FBI's lead investigator for this case, told the court that it "looks like Mr. Posada."

However, he acknowledged that the passport was not properly handled as evidence after it was secured by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in 2005.

Posada's lead defense attorney, Arturo Hernandez, asked Vega why the passport was not placed in a plastic bag and then examined for fingerprints or if any of the investigators "had the foresight to treat it as evidence." "I wish I had," Vega replied.

Business entertainment deductions are complex

By Joyce M. Rosenberg
Associated Press

NEW YORK - Taking a customer to lunch, dinner or the theater is part of doing business. And often, a lot of fun. But company owners may find that claiming such entertainment expenses as income tax deductions is complicated, and maybe painful.

Many owners find out when they're compiling their income tax returns that they can't deduct the full amount of a meal or event. Maybe they can't deduct any of it.

IRS Publication 463, Travel, Entertainment, Gift and Car Expenses will give you a good grounding in deductions for entertainment expenses. And, as with any tax matters, it's always a good idea to consult a tax professional like an accountant or an attorney to be sure you're following the rules.

Here's an overview of what the IRS allows, and doesn't allow, for business entertainment deductions.

If you took your client out for a \$300 dinner and consoled yourself with the idea that at least you got a big deduction, the truth is, you can claim only \$150 on your return. The tax code allows only 50 percent of an entertainment expense to be deducted.

And, if \$300 would be considered a lavish expense considering the line of work you're in and where your company is located, the IRS might limit how much of the check you can deduct.

The amount the government allows will still be subject to the 50 percent rule.

Let's say the meal takes place during a business trip. While your airfare and hotel bill may be fully deductible, only half of the restaurant check can be claimed.

It's so common for business associates, especially when they're friends, to get together for dinner or a drink and compare notes about how things are going. Or ask each other for advice. But according

to the IRS, the bills for these occasions can't be deducted.

In order to claim an entertainment deduction, the government requires that the main purpose of a dinner or other form of entertainment be "the active conduct of business." And an owner must have "more than a general expectation of getting income or some other specific business benefit at some future time."

In other words, if you're getting together just to network with a client or add some goodwill to the relationship, it might not pass the IRS' test. If you talk about a specific project or contract, you've got yourself a deduction.

Here's an exception: If the entertainment takes place before or after a business discussion, then you can deduct it. So let's say you make a presentation to a client and then go out to dinner and you don't discuss business during the meal. It's still deductible.

It's common for owners to bring their spouses and a customer's spouse to a big night out. Unless the spouses are an essential part of the business discussion, their meals and/or tickets aren't deductible.

If you take a customer to the theater or a baseball game, the same rules generally apply. But there can be exceptions, and that's why you need to read Publication 463. For example, if the ticket is to an event that will benefit a charitable organization -- local golf tournaments are often held for charitable reasons -- then you can deduct the full amount.

Many business owners will treat clients to a round of golf at the club they belong to. The fees they pay for a guest are deductible. But yearly or monthly membership dues for the club are not.

Many accountants say the biggest problems their clients have with entertainment expenses is that they don't keep good enough records.

Many have a pile of receipts and credit card statements at the end of the year.

2 charged in slaying, robbery of Texas pastor

By Angela K. Brown
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas - Prosecutors on Monday charged two men with capital murder in the slaying and robbery of a young Texas pastor in his church.

Steven Lawayne Nelson, 24, and Anthony Gregory Springs, 19, also were charged with attempted capital murder in connection with the robbery and beating of a NorthPointe Baptist Church employee Thursday.

Prosecutors in the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office said it's too early to say if they will seek the death penalty.

The Rev. Clint Dobson's cause of death was suffocation by

a plastic bag, according to the Tarrant County medical examiner. The funeral service for the 28-year-old Dobson, described by church members as a caring pastor and gifted communicator, was planned for Wednesday.

Neither suspect has appeared in court yet or has an attorney, said Arlington police spokeswoman Tiara Ellis Richard.

Tips from the public were invaluable and led to the break in the case, Deputy Chief Barry Hines said Monday.

Arlington detectives found that jewelry and shoes were purchased with one victim's credit cards soon after the crime Thursday, and police later obtained store surveillance footage showing both men us-

ing the stolen credit cards, according to police documents released Monday.

Springs, who was arrested late Friday, told police that after the men went shopping, Nelson gave him an item that belonged to the pastor and also said he robbed the church and suffocated Dobson, according to the documents.

Springs told police that he met Nelson at a gas station Thursday before going to the mall, and that Nelson was driving the church employee's car, according to documents.

Earlier Monday before Springs was charged in the case, Deputy Chief Jaime Ayala said Springs declined to say if he had been at the church that day.

NEWS

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Seniors step up in meaningful games

Panther of the Week

By J.O. Malone
Sports Editor

This past week the men's basketball program at Prairie View A&M University needed to defeat the Alcorn State University Braves at home to make their third consecutive appearance in the SWAC Tournament. Doing more than just making it, the Panthers were one step ahead of the game by defeating both ASU and the Southern University Jaguars to claim the seventh seed.

In the first contest against ASU the Panthers scored 55 points

in the first half after firing up 50 attempts making 22 on Thursday night. PVAMU shot 46 percent from the field and 38 percent from the land of three.

The 96-77 win would assure PVAMU a tournament birth in the SWAC tournament.

The Panthers were led by senior Brandon Webb who went for 27 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks. Duwan Kornegay knocked down 23 points and 13 rebounds, while Michael Griffin had 13 points and 12 assists and Trant Simpson finished with 22 points.

Shaunvanta Ingram led the

Braves (4-24, 4-14 Southwestern Athletic Conference) with 17 points, and Ian Francis added 14.

In the second contest the Panthers defeated SU in convincing fashion Saturday night 72-57. On Senior night, seniors Kornegay and Webb dominated the boards bringing down 29 rebounds between the two. PVAMU outrebounded the Jaguars 47-32 for the night. Although the Panthers didn't shoot better in any aspect of the contest they attempted 23 more field goals shooting 40 percent.

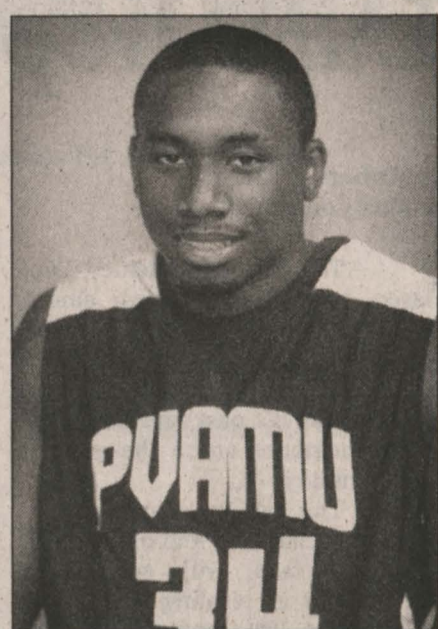
Michael Griffin scored 21

points while Tim Meadows chipped in with 13 points for PVAMU. Along with 14 rebounds, Webb had a solid night with 12 points and two more blocked shots.

Brandon White led the Jaguars (3-15, 4-26) with 14 points while Blake Sanford added 11.

PVAMU will play NO. 2 seed Jackson State University in Garland, Texas Wednesday, March 9 at 12:30 pm. The Panthers finished the regular season (10-21, 7-11 Southwestern Athletic (9-21, 6-11 Southwestern Athletic Conference).

SU did not qualify for the



Courtesy of PVAMU Sports Information

#34 Brandon Webb

By DeVon Mitchell
Panther Staff

Senior Forward Brandon Webb did an outstanding job this week as he did an exceptional job at leading the Prairie View Men's Basketball team to two wins over Alcorn State University and Southern University.

Webb scored 27 points along with 13 rebounds and four blocked shots against Alcorn State.

Webb has been a major anchor of the team this season being one of the leading scorers seven times, leading rebounder nine times and leading person for blocked shots 19 times this season.

Webb said, "My last game in the Baby Dome was hype and exciting, I'm going to miss being in the Dome and the energy of the students."

Webb has scored a total of 297 points averaging 9.6 points a game, totaled 163 in rebounds averaging 5.3 a game, had 46 blocked shots averaging 1.5 each game, and 19 total assists. Webb also led the SWAC Conference in field goal percentage and was honored with Second Team All-SWAC Honors.

Lady Panthers on prowl for SWAC title

By Taylor Alexander
Panther Staff

The Lady Panthers ended the regular season on a high note after two home victories against the Alcorn State University Lady Braves and the Southern University Lady Jaguars. Both wins secured the Lady Panthers a No. 2 seed in the SWAC Conference tournament.

In the first two minutes of the game against the Lady Braves, the Lady Panthers went on a 9-0 run capped off with a three point shot from senior guard Dominique Smith. The Lady Panthers would

lead by as much as 19 points in the first half of the game with 1:25 left and led with a score of 29-15.

The Lady Braves had a close contest as they fought back to get back into the game as they cut the deficit down to 3 points with 12:29 left in the game. The Lady Panthers had a 7-0 run to get a double digit lead with 9:07 left. The Lady Panthers kept a comfortable lead until the Lady Braves would hit a 3-point shot to get within 1 point with 29 seconds left. Good defense and a made free throw shot sealed the deal for the Lady Panthers as they went on to win 55-53. Freshman guard Siarra Soliz led the

Lady Panthers in scoring with 19 points.

The Lady Panthers' next game was against the Lady Jaguars. The Lady Jaguars came out strong as they led by as much as seven points in the first half. But the Lady Panthers stayed in the game and took their first lead of the game with a 21-20 score with 4:38 left in the first half. They would lead at halftime with a score of 27-20. The Lady Jaguars opened the 2nd half with a 10-2 run to take the lead with 14:23 left in the game. It would be their first and last lead of the second half. The

game stayed close throughout until the 5:02 minute mark when the Lady Panthers would lead by nine points. Good execution and good defense would keep them ahead and chalk up another victory in the win column with a score of 61-51 and seal a second seed in the SWAC Championship tournament. Senior guard Dominique Smith led all scorers with 18 points.

The Lady Panthers will face the Lady Tigers of Jackson State University in the opening round of the SWAC tournament on March 9, 2011 at 10 a.m. in Garland, Texas.

Lady Panthers can't stop, won't stop

By Troyla Washington
Panther Staff

The Lady Panthers softball team seem to be on a mission headed to the top of the SWAC conference one game at a time. The season hasn't even hit full swing yet and they've already doubled the amount of total wins they accumulated last season. In Thursday's matchup it took a while to get the intensity but once they did there was no stopping them.

Freshman Leann Flores lead the crusade giving the Lady Panthers a 2-0 lead over Texas College, senior Destiny Darby followed quickly behind the effort of her teammate with a two RBI double. Other members of the team contributed to RBI count as well sophomore Shannon Harris, senior Artavia Woods, and freshman Katelyn Den Beste. Texas College tried to stay afloat but were no match for the relentless efforts of the Lady Panthers. The game concluded in the 5th inning of play, the Lady Panthers emerged victorious with a final score of 9-2.

In the second matchup the Ladies got off to an early start. Senior pitcher Bridget Coronado led the winning effort. As a result the rest of the Lady Panthers stepped up to meet the occasion. Den Beste added to the score off of Jasmin Littles' first of two RBI singles. Unfortunately, Texas College was unable to answer to the Ladies and Woods put the game away late in the sixth. The final score of the game was 7-0.

The Lady Panthers seem to be on a roll this season and freshman Lauren Patterson believes if they keep it up they can win their conference. "Our pitchers are doing their job, the defense is working together and with each win we're gaining confidence and of course the goal is to win SWAC but as always were just taking the season one win at a time," she said.

Sophomore Lauren Grun says, "We're meshing well this season. It just feels more encouraging having more wins under our belt going into conference. This year we feel like we can compete!" The Ladies resume their mission on Thursday, March 10 against Houston Baptist University.

MEN'S BRACKET

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Texas Southern
Wed, Mar. 9 · 8:00PM | 3) Mississippi Valley
Thurs, Mar. 10 · 12:30PM |
| 8) Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 6) Grambling State |
| 4) Alabama State
Thurs, Mar. 10 · 8:00PM | 2) Jackson State
Wed, Mar. 9 · 12:30PM |
| 5) Alabama A&M | 7) Prairie View A&M |

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Southern
Wed, Mar. 9 · 5:30PM | 3) Alcorn State
Thurs, Mar. 10 · 10:00AM |
| 8) Alabama State | 6) Grambling State |
| 4) Alabama A&M
Thurs, Mar. 10 · 5:30PM | 2) Prairie View A&M
Wed, Mar. 9 · 10:00AM |
| 5) Mississippi Valley | 7) Jackson State |

WOMEN'S BRACKET
for the Hoops...
...Stay for it All
SWAC
March 9 -
Dallas, TX

Panther line- Siarra Soliz SWAC & 3rd Team All-SWAC Freshman of the Year, Prairie View A&M, Dominique Smith 2nd Team All-SWAC, Robin Jones 2nd Team All-SWAC, Brandon Webb 2nd Team All-SWAC, Trant Simpson 3rd Team All-SWAC.

Inside the life of a student athlete

By Channer Kidd Hill
Panther Staff

Chris Townsend is a native of the nation's capital, Washington D.C. He is a linebacker for the Prairie View A&M University football team and poses as the ideal definition of a student athlete; studying agronomy during his current sophomore year.

Townsend has been playing football since fifth grade and loves the game. He enjoys most however, the will power that football gives him and his teammates, he says, "When you go against an opponent you have to feel as though you want it and know that you're going to tackle them and that you can own it. Football brings out your true character. It defines who you are."

The life of a student athlete has many trials and tribulations which Townsend explained. His daily life consists of waking up at 5:30 a.m. for 6 a.m. workouts. After workouts Townsend goes to breakfast, every day. He says "our coaches stress to us the importance of eating 5-6 meals a day in an effort to gain more weight."

Later Townsend heads to class and has lunch between class-

es. Evenings consist of 7 on 7 practices, team meetings, dinner, and homework.

"Life is really hectic; I have 18 hours under my belt," says Townsend.

Student athletes in college juggle both school and the work that is required of them from the team they are a member of. Numerous student athletes on PVAMU's campus complain that teachers should be more lenient in making up exams and turning in assignments, as their life drains them physically and mentally from the workouts, practice, school work, and traveling.

Yet Townsend holds an opposite opinion concerning this, "being a student athlete is a choice. Regardless of what I do I'm still a student and have to meet the expectations of the classroom."

A social life appears nearly impossible for student athletes but Townsend explains that the next to impossible can be achieved. "Whenever there is time, I can find a party. It's not really that hard. I only party on the weekends because with more credit hours there is less time to hang out. After class and in class you socialize. There are so many places where I can so-

cialize, especially with all the events held on campus." Outside of football Townsend enjoys playing call of duty with friends, watching TV, and movies, and most importantly catching up on sleep, as his activities limit him to six to seven hours of sleep per night.

Regardless of the glory, the life of a student athlete is challenging, according to Townsend.

"The biggest thing is time management, balancing academics with athletics. Our coaches want us to give our all to the sport, but you have to remember that if grades aren't high enough you can't play and we all want to achieve high academics; no one wants to be average." Townsend spends seven hours every week studying on his own and is not obligated to attend study hall with his teammates because he is balancing a 3.6 overall grade point average.

Overall, the student athlete life is possible, but it's stressful. Townsend insisted on letting fellow students looking into being a student athlete know and current student athletes know this, "I want everyone to know that it's not for everyone. A lot of people come and try out for teams but they can't handle school and a sport. It's only for people capable of being at the top of their game in the classroom and on the field."

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You only have 2 things to do:
1- **Study for your midterms**
2- **Have a fun and safe Spring Break**

Check with your Academic Advisor when you get back to see your midterm grades.

Remember: The Key to Academic Success is Class Attendance—you can't pass if you don't go!!!

Lupe drops "Lasers"

By Robert Walker
Panther Contributor

The remotely talented Lupe Fiasco releases his third album, "Lasers" on March 8, creating media uproar nationally. It was said by Fiasco that the inspiration for "Lasers" was his past repressed high school memories and a "he gets the girl" mentality.

The album continues to create a social buzz among his wide variety of fans, with some even going as far as pirating songs from the Internet. This unfortunately led to bad reviews and comments from some fans.

Lupe responded to these fans on his Twitter page with, "I never thought Lasers would inspire so much negativity, reading the comments and reactions is crushing."



Courtesy of gigwise.com

New album release: After three long years, Lupe Fiasco's highly anticipated album entitled "Lasers" drops March 8.

+ Spring break safety tips

By Jazmyne Joseph
L&E Editor

Spring break is full of spontaneity and fun, but careless behavior can lead to disaster. College students are often more subject to dangerous situations especially during spring break, so here are some basic tips you can take to avoid a tragic or life-altering accident.

Road trip: Make sure everyone who will be driving has a valid drivers license. Make sure you have proper vehicle registration and/or current insurance. Everyone in the car must be buckled up. If the driver gets sleepy, stop at a rest stop to rotate drivers. The passenger must stay awake to accompany the driver in case signs of sleepiness occur. Make sure you have a spare tire and tools in case a tire blows out. Avoid really loud music while driving so that it doesn't interfere with the driver's concentration.

Safe money travel: When you go on trips, it's always safer to pull out cash before hitting the road or leaving for your destination. Identity theft is common, but is less likely to happen without major usage of your debit or credit card. If you have to go to the ATM while vacationing, try to go in groups, particularly during the daytime.

While drinking: If you decide to drink, know the liquor laws wherever it is you will be vacationing. Always have a designated driver or plan for another form of transportation to pick you and your group up. Be

Atlantic Records along with Fiasco decided to solve the problem by making half of the album available to download on iTunes. They also endorsed that fans should buy an iTunes pass to receive exclusives and song snippets.

Nevertheless with songs such as "All Black Everything", "Out My Head" featuring Trey Songz, and "Never Forget You" featuring John Legend, it's only reasonable to suggest that the album will progress Fiasco's career.

Although the failure of "Lasers" could ultimately add to his initial decision, announced last year, to retire from the hip hop industry. Will sales be the determining factor for Fiasco's future in Hip-Hop?

Women's history month: The story of Saartjie Bartman

By Jazmyne Joseph
L&E Editor

Sarah Bartman is not your typical go-to for women's history, but once I learned about her, I wanted others who were unaware of her, especially black women, to know who she was. She didn't build or invent anything spectacular, she didn't march, and she didn't start a women's coalition of any sort, but even still she has contributed so much to women's history as well as African American history.

In 1810, Sarah Baartman was a South African woman of Khoi Khoi ancestry in her early 20s who traveled to England with a British doctor named William Dunlop who took an interest in her because of her unusual physical frame. He planned to make money by exposing her to European culture as a newfound scientific oddity, and promised her some money in return.

In hopes of finding fortune there, she arrived and was viewed as a social outcast because of her large buttocks and genitals. Europeans had never seen any person like her, and therefore did not consider her to be human. She was ridiculed and mocked because of her physical appearance and treated as a sexual object, and was nicknamed "Hottentot Venus." She was put in a circus show and displayed as a freak



graegram.com

Saartjie Baartman: An exploited African woman.

that Europeans were fascinated by.

In 1814, Baartman was taken to Paris, continuing to be exhibited as a freak show. In 1816, she died at the age of 25 and her body was taken and dissected for scientific research studies. The Musee de l'Homme in Paris took a death cast of her body, removed her skeleton, genitals, and brain and placed them on display until as late as 1985.

In May of 2002, the remains of her body were finally shipped back to her homeland of Cape Town in South Africa after years of the South African government battling with French authorities.

This is a tragic tale of an African woman who was exploited and mistreated because of what she looked like. After learning about this woman, I felt impelled to share her story because sadly, I see the same exploitation today, except it's worse because many of us allow others to demean and degrade us. As black women, we must restore our dignity and self-respect.



"Seeds of faith are always within us; sometimes it takes a crisis to nourish and encourage their growth."
-Susan L. Taylor



tacoma.washington.edu

Fun or fatal: A deadly car accident threatens a college student's life. Don't let this be your car after next week.

aware of your surroundings and never go anywhere alone while under the influence. Set a pace for consuming alcohol and try not to exceed your limit. Alcohol poisoning is not fun! And no under-aged drinking!

Hitting the club: When going out, stay with your group. If you came out together, you go home together. Never allow friends to leave home with someone else, sober or not. Be aware of suspicious behavior from people and signs of predatory drugs like the common date rape drug. If a friend appears to be drunk, it's your responsibility to see that they travel home safely, or take them to a hospital if symptoms are severe.

Spring fling: Sex is

common among college students, but just because it's common doesn't mean you have to engage in sex too, but if you must, use protection. Ladies, you don't always have to rely upon the male to bring condoms. You could buy condoms of your own, or use the Fc2 female condom. Sex isn't taboo and should be handled with care, and not just an unsafe impulsive act. Be smart and think about your actions beforehand, so that you don't wind up with an STD or something incurable like HIV/AIDS.

I'm sure that these tips aren't new, and many of us have heard them before, but you'd be surprised at how effective these basic steps can be when used as preventive measures to ensure a fun and healthy safe trip!

Poetry Corner

A poem for Sarah Baartman
By Diana Ferrus

"I've come to take you home - home, remember the veld? the lush green grass beneath the big oak trees the air is cool there and the sun does not burn. I have made your bed at the foot of the hill, your blankets are covered in buchu and mint, the proteas stand in yellow and white and the water in the stream chuckle sing-songs as it hobbles along over little stones.

I have come to wretch you away - away from the poking eyes of the man-made monster who lives in the dark with his clutches of imperialism who dissects your body bit by bit who likens your soul to

that of Satan and declares himself the ultimate god!

I have come to soothe your heavy heart I offer my bosom to your weary soul I will cover your face with the palms of my hands I will run my lips over lines in your neck I will feast my eyes on the beauty of you and I will sing for you for I have come to bring you peace.

I have come to take you home where the ancient mountains shout your name. I have made your bed at the foot of the hill, your blankets are covered in buchu and mint, the proteas stand in yellow and white - I have come to take you home where I will sing for you for you have brought me peace."

Top three vacation spots

By D'Ann Dickson
Interim Editor

Spring break is right around the corner and it's clear that the top three spots to hit are South Padre Island, Texas, Panama City and Miami, Florida.

South Padre Island, located right at the tip of Texas, is the number one destination that students choose when planning their getaway for the spring semester. Why you ask? It's cheap and convenient.

Senior architecture major Trevon Heath said, "South Padre is a good spot for your freshman and sophomore spring semesters because it's not too much to handle as far as price and distance. This year though, I'm ready to have a really nice,

memorable trip so I'm choosing Panama City."

Panama City is popular because of the variety of events and the change of scenery. Unlike South Padre Island, everywhere you turn you won't see a Prairie View student or someone you know.

"I'm ready to get away with my friends in a place I've never been before," said senior architecture major Charles Clay. "I'm pretty sure I'll get there yellow and come back black from all the golden sun rays."

Miami debuts as number three on the list. Numerous students have been or plan to visit this sun-kissed city because of all it has to offer from the sandy beaches to the entertaining

nightlife activities.

"I went to Miami last year because no one from Prairie View was going. I had so much fun though the 16-hour drive was a bit much. I wouldn't advise anyone under 21 years old to go though since you won't be able to enjoy the clubs and "grown-up" events," said senior business administration major Ryan Harris.

Students should take these experiences and stories into consideration as they choose their destinations for spring break. It's important to remember to have as much fun as possible with friends but most importantly, students must be safe at all times and smart in all choices made. This is the only way to truly enjoy your spring break.

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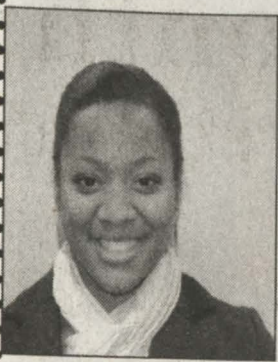
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Conversations with Christine



Williams

In last week's issue of the paper, there was some miscommunication between The Panther staff and I, which led to an error. The article under Christine Williams's column, Conversations of Christine, was intended to be a letter from "Opportunity," not my personal viewpoints. The Panther Staff and I want to apologize for any misconceptions and the possible tainted images that may have acquired. This week's article is an example of how last week's article should have been published.

Dear Reader,

Hey! I only have a quick minute but I wanted drop you a little note.

I tend to be misunderstood quite a bit, seeing as how many people think so narrowly of me. The only problem is I hardly have a chance to show up when you're in college.

Sometimes it's hard for you to believe if I'm dead or alive. I can tell you this too, some people who think they know me are just lying.

They think if they show me and them together, then people will think they are like amazing or something.

No, no. Not always the case. Sometimes these people are miserable. I mean miserable to the point that they are abusing substances.

They only call me to take pictures with them or mention me when around the "upper class." But, please believe, we can hang out too.

Not only will it be more genuine if you get a hold of me in the right way but I also won't feel like such a façade.

Being rich isn't a qualification but who knows, you might end up there if you stay true to yourself.

Well, I just wanted to drop a little note as I said. And remember, if you put in the hard work now, I will definitely be here for you in the future!

With much love,

Success

-Christine Williams

Can you find the five differences



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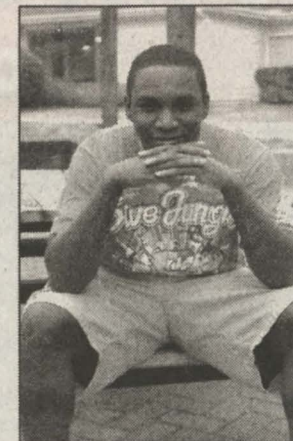
PURPLE & GOLD POLL

What are your plans for Spring Break?



"I am going to South Padre Island with a couple of my close friends. I plan to go to the beach and get a tan while listening to some good music."

Gabrielle Williams
Sophomore



"I am going to South Padre Island this spring break. I plan to hit the beach and the clubs with my friends."

Anthony Opara
Sophomore



"For spring break I plan to go home and work. Then, back to Houston and Galveston I go!"

Latoria Fowler
Sophomore



"I am going on a road trip to Abilene, TX to reunite with high school homies."

Jordan Hines
Sophomore

By Andre Williams, The Panther

20 QUESTIONS?

1. Aren't you glad 20 questions is back this week?
2. Who was the football player stealing a loaf of bread from the MSC?
3. Is the team starving that much?
4. Since sagging means "Come and get it," should the Rainbow Dolls begin making their selections?
5. How is it that we know every lyric to "Thrown Off" but can't remember a word of The Negro National Anthem?
6. What's up with these girls who show up to class in pajamas and hair wraps?
7. Why are some of the AKA prospects already acting stuck up?
8. Who else is excited about the upcoming probate?
9. If you are a MIP reject, will you still attend?
10. Why was there not a PV Choice Award nomination for Best NPHC Organization on campus?
11. Who was the guy who proposed to his girl and got rejected?
12. Who is the guy on the basketball team that is coming up a bit short according to his females?
13. Why was the Beta/Iota party so lame?
14. Why did the Zetas and Deltas have their founders day program on the same day?
15. Who were the guys from different fraternities that were sharing the same girl?
16. Who was the girl who got rejected by both the Zetas and AKAs?
17. Which guy was dumped by his girlfriend on Facebook and had another girl two minutes later?
18. Can somebody say, "Don't hate the player, hate the game?"
19. Now that 20 questions are back in, won't you continue to submit?
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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+



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