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THE

PANTHER

NEWSPAPER

The Necessity of Black History



ILLUSTRATION BY: JI SUB JEONG/HUFFPOST; PHOTOS BY: GETTY IMAGES

By Anaya Wesley
Opinion Editor

African-American History Month or Black History Month is a period where black Americans can celebrate excellence found on all levels; local, state, and national.

Officially recognized in 1926, Carter G. Woodson started “Negro History Week”, and chose a specific week in February based on the birthdays of prominent advocates of black rights, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. In 1976, fifty years after the first Negro History Week celebration, Negro History Week was officially recognized as a full month. February had already been considered the unofficial Black History Month at that time by many college campuses and even foreign countries, like Canada.

However, in recent years, many blacks in America feel that the shortest month of the year isn’t enough time to fully appreciate and celebrate black achievements. Then how much time is enough? Two months? Six months? All year? Black achievement

never stops and is always expanding as a movement, but a month simply adds more focus and reverence to milestone achievements.

Black History Month is also a necessary requirement, because it continually shows how far black Americans have come. With basic American history being required curriculum for almost all education levels, Black History Month is an important window for black scholars to educate other races on the contributions of blacks in America.

Educating future generations on the contributions black people have made toward America’s economic and social progression is important to making sure they know how the country got to where it is today. Often times in American history books, events, important dates, and figures in history are erased, tweaked, or redefined for practicality. Black History Month serves as a time for not just blacks but other races as well to see African Americans as people who have something to offer.

In 2018, we have seen tremendous accomplishments in the black community, with some notable people taking the spotlight. Erin Jackson, an

amateur speedskater, was recently accepted to compete in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Her feat is extremely important because Jackson only picked up the sport seriously a mere 5 months ago.

Another exciting successful black American worth highlighting during the month of February is film director Ryan Coogler. Ever since Coogler’s debut feature film *Fruitvale Station*, he has produced nothing but the best, and is boasting a remarkable resume of work. Coogler went from *Fruitvale Station*, to *Creed*, to the recently produced, hit Marvel film, *The Black Panther*.

Following up, Canadian born rapper and musical artist Drake has also been at work giving back to the community. In his new music video for his latest single, “God’s Plan”, he gave away almost one million dollars in cash to people throughout Miami. He was also seen paying for groceries in a local grocery store for many shoppers.

Black History Month is a wonderful time for people of color to come together and celebrate all the positives black people have to offer, as well as reflecting on better initiatives to take to further black advancement and appreciation.

THE PANTHER INDEX

Campus/Nation News.....	2-3
Sports.....	4
Advertisement.....	5
Lifestyle	6
Lifestyle (Black Panther Edition).....	7
Opinion	8

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Photo from UT NEWS-University of Texas at Austin

Lecture Introduces Students to Exciting Opportunities

By Chastity Fields

News Editor

To kick off Black History Month, The Collegiate 100, The Prairie View A&M University History Club, and The Division of Social Work, Behavioral Sciences, and Political Sciences hosted a lecture featuring Dr. Leonard N. Moore, a George Littlefield Professor of American History. According to the University of Texas at Austin's official website, the "George W. Littlefield Professorship in American History was established by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System on December 12, 1980, for the benefit of the College of Liberal Arts."

Moore began his lecture with a short icebreaker which began with each student being paired with an-

other. He then urged them to share both a strength and a weakness with their partner. They were then prompted to share this information with the audience.

For the most part, all the students in the room admitted to the same weakness: procrastination. Unfortunately, not many strengths floated around the room. However, solutions were offered that ranged from keeping a planner for organizing daily assignments to simply managing their time well.

This icebreaker served as a way for Dr. Moore to level with the audience and to get them interested in what he had to share. He promised to provide 5 principles for students to follow if they wanted to obtain success: having a vision, be mindful of the company you keep, deal with your favorite sin, don't be afraid to

look crazy, and hit submit.

This exercise effectively served as a tension breaker between him and the students and helped to lighten the mood. He simply wanted to get students out of their comfort zones and into a world where the possibilities are endless.

"My point is, we've always had to make a way out of no way... You gotta take the energy from your community, from Prairie View, and you gotta bring all of that to the corporate world," said Dr. Moore.

Moore has experience as a professor at Louisiana State University and University of Texas at Austin. He has also worked with many minority students who were unable to see possibilities outside of their current experiences.

"You know most of these kids have never been on an airplane before... I knew if I could get these kids from the hood, abroad, guess what? They would kill the game when they become professionals," said Dr. Moore.

Dr. Moore has also participated in and helped orchestrate outreach programs like Minority Male Initiative, Project MALES or Mentoring to Achieve Latino Educational Success, and African American Male Research Institute.

His primary goal is to give back to the communities and schools that have given back to him. He works closely with students who come from underprivileged backgrounds.

"At Texas [University of Texas at Austin] I had this crazy idea: I wanted to get students who looked like y'all overseas. You know what I realized? Rich kids got networks we ain't got. Rich kids got connections we ain't got. Rich kids got hookups on a totally different level. So I said 'the way I can hook it up for these sisters and brothers from Houston and Dallas, and Latino folks from the valley, I gotta put them on an airplane.'"

Dr. Moore's message was about far more than just going to China to eat, pray, and love. It was about taking the initiative to create opportunities for ourselves instead of "wallowing in self-pity".

"If he's empowering you, it can kind of domino effect to you possibly going to the next level in your life and helping your HBCU. If you went here, support here," said Collegiate 100 President, Jarrid Harris.

Prairie View hosts Honda Campus All Star Challenge

By Kasandra Love

Copy Editor



Photo by Amia Mayo

Saturday, Feb. 3, Prairie View A&M University hosted the Honda Campus All Star Challenge in the MSC Ballroom for the surrounding HBCUs competing in the challenge's qualifier. The Honda Campus All Star Challenge is a quiz bowl tournament administered by College Bowl for HBCUs and sponsored by the American Honda Motor Company. There were multiple qualifiers across the country taking place at schools like Spelman and North Carolina A&T.

The game consists of 4 rounds with the first 3 rounds being "Face Off" rounds and the 4th round being the "Ultimate Challenge" round. The two types of questions in the Face Off rounds are "toss ups" and "bonuses". In the Ultimate Challenge round, the team has 60 seconds to answer 10 questions. The team with the highest score at the end wins.

The 9 HBCUs that traveled to Prairie View for the qualifier included: Southern University, Grambling State University, Paul Quinn College, Wiley College, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Jarvis Baptist College, Chicago State University, Langston University, and Texas College. Although a majority of the schools that traveled to Prairie View were somewhat nearby, such as Paul Quinn and Wiley College, Chicago State University had the longest journey.

The Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) was established in 1989 to showcase the academic excellence of HBCU students. Since then, Honda has awarded over \$8 million in grants to participating HBCUs.

After the national qualifying tournaments, 48 HBCUs will continue on to compete at the 29th annual National Championship Tournament that will take place in Torrance, California on April 7-11. Prairie View A&M is among those 48 schools and Ms. Glenda Jones, Director of Career Services, was proud to say "We're two time champions." Hopefully, that'll soon change to three. According to Prairie View Assistant Coach, Joseph Bow, the 1st place winners of the Nationals will receive \$75,000 for their institution.

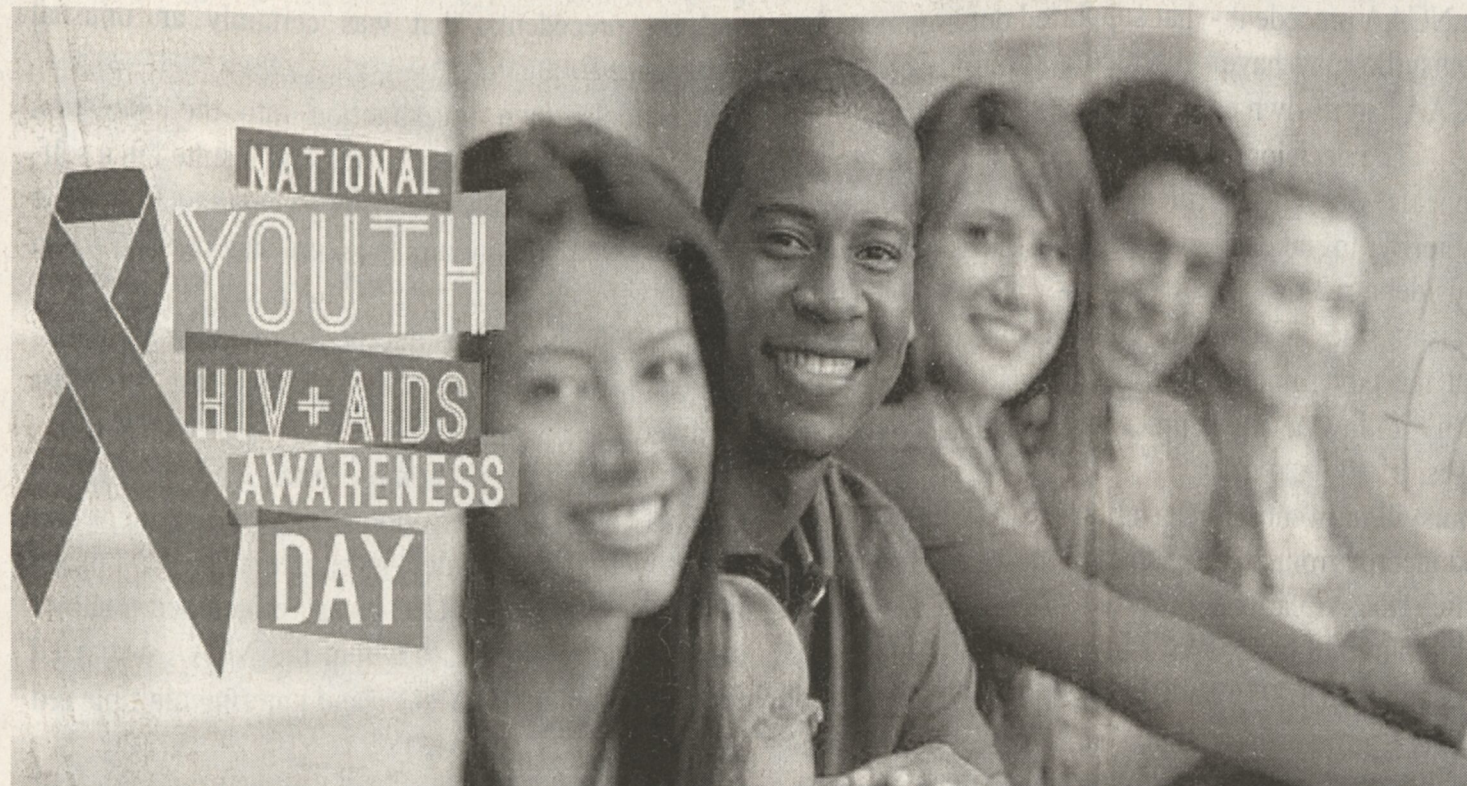


Photo By: American Psychological Association

Nat'l Black AIDS Awareness Day encourages student testing

By Chastity Fields
News Editor

On Feb. 7, for this year's National Black AIDS Awareness Day, Panthers Promoting Healthy Decisions (aka The Panther PhDs) provided free and confidential HIV testing for students in the MSC foyer from 12-3 p.m.

The oral test administered by the organization, OraQuick, is a standard over-the-counter HIV kit that was approved by the FDA in 2012. It can easily be purchased for around \$40, but the PhDs offer the service for free.

"Our tests are accurate. It's just a quicker way to get your test (results)," said Panther PhD President, Taylor Whitlow. The test that Whitlow refers to here is the antibody test. The PhDs provided OraQuick test can yield results in as little as 20 minutes. There are other alternatives to this particular exam, each having a different window period. One should make the decision about which test to take based on when they think they may have been exposed to the virus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control website, the nucleic acid test can yield results 10 to 33 days after exposure, the antigen/antibody test can

detect infection via blood withdrawal 18 to 45 days after exposure, and regular antibody tests can detect infection 23 to 90 days after exposure.

It is also entirely anonymous, making students more likely to participate. The test itself, is administered in its simplest form. This makes it easier for students to participate in the process.

First, students fill out a short survey with questions about their recent sexual encounters. Then, they are asked to fill out a ticket only including their initials and their date of birth. This is done so that they can retrieve their results easily.

Students are instructed to use the stick to swab their top and bottom gums, collecting any saliva from their mouths. This sample is then placed in a solution that quickly begins to react.

The wait is only 20-40 minutes. Two lines, one at both the C and T on the swab stick, indicate a positive result, while one line at the C on the swab indicates a negative result.

Students can receive their results in a quiet, isolated room. Only one student is allowed to enter at a time.

Monday through Thursday from 2-4 p.m. in the basement of the Owens Franklin Health Center, they perform this easy testing, allowing students to have access to free testing all year round, without the hassle of paperwork or bloodwork.

When asked why it's so important for African-Americans to get standard testing done, Whitlow had this to say, "For African-Americans, I think everybody is just scared to know their status. It's just something about it people don't wanna know. But, I think it's important to know your status. It's better for you to know than to just guess."

Panther Dolls highlight importance of self-defense

By Kasandra Love
Copy Editor



Photo by Amia Mayo

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the Panther Dolls teamed with P.L.U.S., Criminal Justice Club, and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. to give the students at Prairie View A&M a chance to learn some helpful self defense moves in the Leroy Moore Gym.

The Panther Dolls reached out to some members from Tomball Soo Bahk Do, a martial arts school located in Tomball, Texas, to teach some valuable moves that can help a student in a time of need. The coach of the Panther Dolls, Nina Wright, stated, "I decided to choose self defense as one of the programs for Doll week because a lot of things are going on around campus". This is in response to some incidents that have happened recently.

From Feb. 4th through the 8th, there were numerous vehicular burglaries reported to UPD that happened at University Village Phase III. However, violent crime is also not unheard of on the University's campus, so this self defense class served its purpose.

The co-founder of P.L.U.S, Shantel Hansbrough says, "The purpose of this event is to just bring awareness on how to self defend yourself". The members from Tomball Soo Bahk Do also stressed the importance of being aware and putting your phone away while being out and about.

Self-defense classes like these can be an important educational tool for those unsure of how to react to violent or unpredictable situations. However, if you ever need assistance while on campus you can contact the University Police Department at 936-261-1375.



AP Photo/Chris O'Meara, File

Louisville must vacate basketball title, NCAA denies appeal

By GARY B. GRAVES
AP WRITER

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Louisville officials are not happy with the NCAA's decision that mandates the school vacate its 2013 men's basketball championship in the wake of an embarrassing sex scandal, and interim President Greg Postel did not hide his disappointment.

It's the first time a Division I men's basketball program has been stripped of a national title. While acknowledging the scandal was unacceptable, Postel believes the school's cooperation with the NCAA should have counted for more than it did.

But Tuesday Louisville announced that an NCAA appeals panel had upheld sanctions against the men's program. As a result, the Cardinals have to vacate not only the championship, but 122 other victories and

return about \$600,000 in conference revenue from the 2012-15 NCAA Tournaments.

"I cannot say this strongly enough: We believe the NCAA is simply wrong," Postel said Tuesday. "We disagree with the NCAA ruling for reasons we clearly stated in our appeal. And we made a strong case — based on NCAA precedent — that supported our argument." Louisville may have presented a strong case, but the NCAA had its own convictions.

The decision by the governing body's Infraction Appeals Committee ruled that the NCAA has the authority to take away championships for what it considers major rule violations. In the eight-page decision, the NCAA also refuted Louisville's position that the governing body exceeded its boundaries and didn't follow its own precedent established in other cases.

Louisville now must forfeit its third NCAA title, victories and income from 2011-15, part of the timeframe during which the violations occurred. The decision is the culmination of the NCAA's investigation that followed allegations in a 2015 book by escort Katina Powell that former Cardinals basketball staffer Andre McGee hired her and other dancers to strip and have sex with recruits.

Former coach Rick Pitino repeatedly denied knowing about the activities described in Powell's book, but the blemish on the program will never be forgotten — not after Tuesday's sanctions.

Besides taking down the red-and-white banner that hung beside the American flag and two other title flags in the Cardinals' downtown arena, Louisville must erase wins before and after that championship along with other records.

That process started almost immediately. Basketball spokesman Kenny Klein confirmed by Tuesday evening that both the 2013 title and 2012 Final Four banners were removed from the rafters at the KFC Yum! Center.

Postel doesn't feel the punishment fits the violations.

"From Day One, the university has admitted that the actions of the former operations director and any others involved under previous leadership were offensive and inexcusable," Postel said in his statement. "That is why we apologized immediately, cooperated fully with the NCAA, self-imposed penalties that were appropriate to the offenses and made significant changes to ensure incidents like this never happen again.

"Under the NCAA's own rules, this cooperation should have been a factor in the severity of the punishment. Instead, it was ignored."

Interim athletic director Vince Tyra said the NCAA process was "unusual" compared to a federal

organization such as OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), where he said guidelines are more black-and-white.

"With the NCAA, there are bylaws which seem to be guidelines and then there's great discretion on the guidelines," Tyra said. "It's very difficult to follow and set precedent. That was certainly an unusual experience."

The school's own investigation into the allegation revealed that violations occurred and resulted in a self-imposed postseason ban nearly two years ago. Louisville later imposed scholarship and recruiting restrictions in an effort to mitigate further NCAA discipline.

While the NCAA accepted Louisville's actions, it went further with harsher sanctions last June that included:

— A five-game suspension of Pitino, who was fired in October following Louisville's acknowledgement that it was being investigated in a federal bribery probe of college basketball. That measure included a show-cause penalty for Pitino, whom the NCAA criticized for failing to monitor McGee and ignoring multiple red flags;

— Four years' probation, along with the vacation of those wins and appearances in the 2012 and 2013 Final Fours;

— Show-cause penalties for McGee, who is no longer coaching;

— Postel estimates the return of about \$600,000 in NCAA Tournament revenue.

"This dark cloud has hung over our heads for more than two years, and it has had a negative impact on our athletics program, our fans and the entire university family," Postel said. "While we disagree with the NCAA's decision, it is time for the university to close this chapter and move forward with a stronger commitment to excellence on and off the court."

Interim coach David Padgett said he talked to his team about the announcement and texted several former players from that title squad, reminding them of their achievement.

"This doesn't change what you did. You won 16 games in a row, you went 35-5 and cut down the nets in Atlanta," Padgett said he told former Cardinals. "You don't need a banner to know you're a national champion."

The NCAA's decision can't erase what actually happened, but it does remove some of the tangible reminders at Louisville.

And with the ongoing corruption investigation, more changes could be looming on the horizon.

All Star game back with new look

Owen L. Roberts III
Sports Editor



Photo By: Kevin Manahankmanahan

The status of the NBA All-Star Game was a matter up for debate before the games began. People expressed their opinions about keeping the game on television or going forward with removing it. The viewers and analysts who watched the game last year described it as unenthusiastic because players would not take it seriously. But all those questions and concerns went away due to a shift in player's caring and playing at a level that fans have been longing to seeing.

Several changes have occurred since last year's All-Star game. The league has since ditched the traditional East-West design established in 1951 and gave team leaders, LeBron James and Stephen Curry, the ability to pick who belonged to either squad.

The plan experienced changes as the event became the world's most expensive five-on-five game, and the anticipation reflected on the Staples Center arena, where a real shootout had taken place.

Lebron's lineup directed a win through a display of relentless defense. As the time dwindled off the clock and Team Curry had the ball in play, James and Kevin Durant closed on Curry, keeping the sharp-shooting star from pulling a possible shot to tie the game.

The two teams played exceptionally well from both ends of the floor. Throughout the game, the players used defensive strategies to limit some of the league's elite scorers. The ability to score buckets paid dividends because teams wanted to limit the opponent's chances of winning. NBA players involved in Sunday's game

had one goal in mind, to perform and show out in front of a large crowd. It's not so often that the league's best players together side by side and show such chemistry.

With both teams playing a hard fought game, LeBron James contributed 29 points to help get his team the win. Kevin Durant showed out and did what he usually does best, by adding 19 points. The team's second-leading scorer was giving quality minutes hashing up old wounds with former teammate Russell Westbrook. For Team Stephen, some heavy-hitters also came out and did their thing. Both Damian Lillard and Demar DeRozan added 21 points, keeping up the competition at all ends of the floor.

As an incentive for the dominating team in the end, players went home with a comfortable \$100,000; a clear lift from fore-going years in an innovative way to keep fans watching. People have now realized the importance of the NBA All-Star game due to players listening to their fans and giving them what they came to see. People will continue watching these games and have closed the argument of taking it off the air because players have realized that the fans want to see a competitive game. When the game changes, people are willing to adapt, but when the player's put forth the effort, the game becomes even more entertaining.



African American Art Spring 2018

Something to Say
The McNay Presents 100 Years
of African American Art
FEBRUARY 8 | MAY 6, 2018

30 Americans
Rubell Family Collection
FEBRUARY 8 | MAY 6, 2018

Loan funding for *Something to Say: The McNay Presents 100 Years of African American Art* and *30 Americans: Rubell Family Collection* is most generously provided by Jane Wilson Lacy, The Forum Foundation, Inc., USAA, Guillermo Mota and Jim Finner, Metropolitan Methodist Hospital, Capital Group Companies, Charlotte-Mecklenburg and San Antonio (TC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

Haiti's Revolution in Art
Jacob Lawrence's Toussaint L'Ouverture Series
FEBRUARY 8 | MAY 6, 2018

4 Texans
The Next Chapter
MARCH 1 | MAY 6, 2018

Loan funding for *Haiti's Revolution in Art: Jacob Lawrence's Toussaint L'Ouverture Series* and *4 Texans: The Next Chapter* is most generously provided by the Elizabeth Hub Cowan Collection Endowment and the Arthur and Jane Stewart and Joe Erbstein.

theMcNay

McNay Art Museum

San Antonio, Texas
mcnayart.org



San Antonio, Texas (2018), 1900-61 Oil on canvas. The Houston and The McNay Family Foundation for the Arts in Estate of Bob Thompson Courtesy of Rockwell Kent Art Gallery LLC, New York, NY.



Photo By: New Line Productions, Inc.

How to find that “special someone” while in college

By Chastity Fields
News Editor

While some people may believe that it's impossible to find love while away at college, amid the essays, labs, and Chegg textbook rental fees, this university proves otherwise.

If you're looking for love, you've come to the right place. It's in the air, in the food, and in the culture.

Love is actually all around. Trying to date and having a tough time? Here are 5 tips to help you make the most out of your college dating experience:

1. Be open to dating outside your comfort zone

Don't get caught up in dating your so-called “type”. So what if he's not 6 feet tall with shiny white

teeth and a heart of gold. Beggars can't be choosers. Your type probably doesn't even exist. You have to be willing to get past that, and simply enjoy yourself. Maybe go for the shy girl who sits in the front of the class instead of the girl who never really seems to go to class. Try to keep an open mind about the people you come across. You never know. You might meet someone worthwhile.

2. Explore

Love really is all around us. The opportunities to find romance on our campus are endless. You can accidentally find someone's sock in the dryer at the washateria and then, boom. You're married. It's really that easy. Get out of your bed, throw on a hat, and go to that speed dating event. You might bond over an episode of *Grown-ish* or the Black Panther soundtrack. You might share a major and don't even know it. Even if you don't find a long lasting relationship, you might find something to hold you over until the next cuffing season.

3. Do a trial run

Ever heard someone say, “I'll try anything once”? You should do it too. College is all about getting to know yourself, the things you like and don't like, the things you want and don't want, and the things you enjoy and don't enjoy. If you never give anyone a chance, you won't have any dating experience. And how can you choose a mate without any prior knowledge on what you like and don't like? Put yourself out there. Hold interviews. Collect your data. Make your final decision. It's simple.

4. Situationship, Relationship, DTF?

Listen, the lines start to get blurry when it comes time to actually define what you are. Are you in a relationship, just “talking”, or are you wasting time? Who knows? Do your best to avoid these sticky in between situations that lead to confusion. Set those boundaries early. Let it be known what you want and what you will and won't tolerate. Set your expectations. The lines will become a lot less blurry. Suddenly, only the prospects who deserve your time will be crystal clear.

5. Just have fun

This is probably the last time in your life where there will be so many options around you. It's probably also the last time you have time to just sit down for a burger and talk about your classes and your favorite colors. We're millennials, we don't follow rules. Throw out the formalities of a dinner and a movie, and maybe try a lunch date at The Zone. Go to the bowling alley and strike out. Go to Agriculture and Business, find an empty classroom, and throw on some Netflix. If you're not enjoying yourself, you're wasting time. So make sure that you have fun.

SGA and Triple P host a night of “Black Love”

By Daija Peterson
News Contributor



Photo by Amia Mayo

Poets and singers serenaded the walls of the Don K. Clark building's auditorium with smooth jams and sweet words at SGA and Triple P's Black Love event last Tuesday. Not only students, but also alumni, came out to perform the sounds of love in the in the packed out room.

The event showed the creative side of Prairie View's students, with every song and poem performed being original, except for the slow jams played by Dj Sasquatch.

The event started off with some beautiful art pieces that were displayed near the entrance of the auditorium. Also, nerves were high that night, with performers reciting and practicing their lines in the hallway while students were walking into the event. Nonetheless, the scene was soothing; lights dimmed, candles on the stage, and a dj in the corner.

The host of the event, Prairie View student Dwayne Washington and Student Government Association Vice President, Xante Wallace, introduced each performer and entertained the audience during intermissions.

Prairie View student, Bobby Etheridge said, “I had fun, the poetry and singing were amazing. I've

never been to a poetry event before, but now I think I'll go check out some more”. Some of the performers included Johnny Turner (The Kidd), Malcolm Garcia, Chelsie Russ (Keys), Xante Wallace (Xpose), Tyra Charmaine, and many more.

The legendary Outspoken Bean, who is the creator of Triple P (Prairie View Productive Poets), also came out to “spit” some poetry.

Poet and Prairie View student, Malcolm Garcia talks about his experience performing for the first time, “I was very nervous, I've never been on a platform like that and it didn't help that there were so many people. Once I got on stage I felt more comfortable. After the poem was done and the audience showed their appreciation for it, I felt very happy.”

The event lasted for a few of hours with the poets reciting their poems first, and the singers performing last. Black Love was perfect for a Valentine's date or just going out with friends. It showcased some of the talent here at Prairie View A&M University and gave students a platform to shine on.



photo from Marvel Studios

Black Panther: a review of social themes

By Anaya Wesley,
Opinion Editor

In regards to the movie, Marvel Studios has outdone itself with the recent production of the heavily anticipated film, *Black Panther*. Directed by Ryan Coogler, who is best known for his role in the movies *Fruitvale Station* and *Creed*, *Black Panther* created both a visually stimulating and symbolic experience, setting it apart from Marvel movies before it. It was also highly anticipated by black Americans, due to it being the most recent superhero film to star predominantly black cast since the 1998 film, *Blade*.

SPOILER ALERT

Black Panther is the follow up to the film *Captain America: Civil War*, with T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman) returning to Wakanda, his homeland, after the death of his father, Wakandan king, T'Chaka. When the time comes for T'Challa to take his place as King of Wakanda, an unforeseen competitor explodes from the shadows in the form of Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan), son of N'Jobu and also T'Challa's long lost cousin. Resentful at being exiled from Wakanda for his father's revolutionary ideas, Killmonger seeks revenge on the royal Wakandan family for the struggle he and other blacks endured while Wakanda stood by silent.

Black Panther was more than just a continuation of a fantasy series, as it also spoke on very real truths faced within the black community. One of the most prevalent themes in *Panther* is the allusion to the wide divide between black Americans and natural born Africans. There is a separation between the two cultures, with Africans typically regarding black Americans with disdain for forgetting their roots, believing them to be

too Americanized to ever really belong. On the other hand, black Americans resent these sentiments held by Africans, due in part to their ability to reflect and celebrate their culture and know where they come from. This feud is represented in the film by King T'Chaka's decision to leave Killmonger in Oakland after killing his father rather than welcoming him, and Killmonger's ensuing struggle growing up in white America with Wakanda standing by the wayside.

Black Panther also heavily alludes to infighting within the black community, and violence bred from disagreement. Erik Killmonger's hatred of Wakanda's rulers and his violent nature is the product of differing ideals between brothers T'Chaka and N'Jobu, culminating in murder. The movie shows how violence has a reach that extends in waves, affecting not only the participants, but significant people close to them as well. While Killmonger has an admirable goal in helping advance blacks outside of Wakanda through use of their resources, mainly vibranium, the execution of his plan is one hundred percent wrong. He lies, steals, and kills without conviction because his father's death had a big impact on the way he handled things. His father was murdered, so he murders. T'Chaka took everything from him, so he took everything from T'Challa. Revenge killing is thematic not only in the movie but in real life as well, particularly in the black community. The directors of *Black Panther* understand this and sent the message that it needs to stop. We cannot continue to fall back on the excuse of being a product of our environment. Rising above pain is the key to overcoming it.

Also found throughout *Black Panther* is a beautiful array of loud colors, cultural dress and imaginative spaces. The pages of the comic books came to life in the movie, reimagining details such as the bright red sand T'Challa laid in to visit previous Black Panthers of Wakanda; a spiritual realm with skies of lavender, twinkling stars and ominous panthers. Then over to the sleek labs that T'Challa's sister Shuri worked in to produce battle suits and gadgets, panning out to capture the hustle and bustle of Wakanda citylife. No detail was spared or left out.

Thematically, there were plenty more interpretations that could be drawn from *Black Panther*, which is why it is such a valuable film. Everytime you watch, you discover something new, some detail you overlooked, but were able to spot on a second look. To those who were disappointed that the creators didn't stick exactly to the comic, they too can still find enjoyment in the movie being excellently well done over all. *Black Panther* was a film that focused on the value of family, roots, and redemption, and promoted the message of the importance of identity.

Black Panther: The Album

SPOILER ALERT

By Johari Wiley
Editor-in-Chief

Director Ryan Coogler's beautifully crafted take on Marvel's foremost African King, T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman), and the plight of his home Wakanda is a testament of black prosperity, aestheticism, and diversity. It is being championed as not only a commercial success, but also critical, as the film raises several questions around various social, political, and cultural issues. Taking these components into consideration was yet another "King", that being hip-hop's reigning monarch, Kendrick Lamar.

When set with the task of producing a soundtrack as equally devoted to capturing the themes of *Black Panther* the film as it was to being able to stand on its own two, artistically, Lamar and Top Dawg Entertainment gathered some of today's heaviest hitters and got straight to work. Diverse as the five tribes that

make up the fictional land of Wakanda is the collage of sounds that create the surprisingly unified front that is *Black Panther: The Album*.

On the project's opening track "Black Panther", Lamar speaks from the mouth of T'Challa. "King of my city, king of my country, king of my homeland/ King of the filthy, king of the fallen, we livin' again" as he raps from T'Challa's perspective as the new king. The production and delivery of the track seemingly picks up where Lamar's last project *Damn.*, left off.

However, the album quickly changes pace when it reaches the second track; the SZA featured "All The Stars". Currently peaking at 31 on the Billboard's Hot 100 chart, "All The Stars" has become a cool crossover hit that relates best to the film's more lighthearted moments.

Along with "All The Stars", the project has many other fun moments, such as "Paramedic!". With its blatant bay area vibes and features from SOB x RBE, the track nods to portions of the film taking place in Oakland, which also happens to be director Ryan Coogler's hometown. "King's Dead", which features Jay Rock, Future, and James Blake is a heavy banger which could also serve purpose as super villain Erik Killmonger's (Michael B. Jordan) sinister theme song. Then there's "Big Shot", Lamar's much anticipated

follow up to his 2016 "Goosebumps" collaboration with Travis Scott. Lifting from the first verse his "New Freezer" collab with Rich the Kid is Lamar yelling "Big shot, peanut butter insides/ Outside cocaine white, body look like Gentiles".

While doing the film's more celebratory moments justice, the soundtrack also hones in its more somber themes. With Killmonger's primary issue being that Wakanda withheld resources from black communities struggling outside the country, Lamar enlists the help of Reason, Sjava, and Sacramento rapper Mozzy to help explain the villain's plight. "Poverty, jealousy, negativity/ Ngith' ak'nandawo la (You got no place here)/ Go away, far away" sings Sjava; empathizing with the downtrodden and neglected. Mozzy continues with his own take on Killmonger's case "Whole lotta crime, lil' n*ggas beefin'/ We gotta keep it or end up a victim/ Trapped in the system, traffickin' drugs/ Modern-day slavery, African thugs."

Black Panther: The Album is a solid juxtaposition to the points that the film makes. Their focuses on expression and diversity, but also on pressing sociocultural issues, have created an impact far greater than expected and are sure to gather staying power with generations to come.

PWI'S VS. HBCU'S



Photo via Alice Wheeler "Coffee Cream Girl"

Is the HBCU vs. PWI debate still relevant?

By Anaya Wesley
Opinion Editor

In the U.S., Historically Black Colleges and Universities are considered among the most prized possessions of black culture. From marching band halftime shows, culturally significant buildings, Greek life, all the way down to Soul Food Thursday's in the cafe, attending an HBCU is a pivotal experience that many young black Americans look forward to. Boasting high minority attendance, diverse representation in faculty, and a wide range of both specific and broad educational pathways, HBCUs are recognized contenders when it comes to recruiting black college aspirants.

However, it's obvious that not all black Americans make the choice to attend HBCUs, with some instead opting to go to Predominantly White Institutions or PWIs. True to their label, these institutions are made up of majority white student populations, with minority races like black and Hispanic being largely less represented. Typically hosting large student bodies, PWIs usually have equally large budgets and can afford to update their campuses regularly. Having active alumni that donate regularly and an enticing appeal that draws in sponsors is regarded as a big help. With a clean, modern, and

sophisticated look that contrasts with Southern HBCUs more red-brick, historical buildings, HBCUs value can oftentimes be overshadowed.

There are multiple arguments for which type of college experience is better. Regardless, the debate has created a rift not only between blacks and whites, but within the black community as well. Blacks who decide to attend PWIs are regularly accused of trying to fit in, while those who attend HBCUs are often told that their degrees are less valuable due to poor funding.

Role models like community leaders, parents, mentors, and even fellow students all influence a college aged person's perspectives. In the black community, parents who have graduated from HBCUs praise their alma mater and may, at times, project the message that any other type of college is unacceptable. Due to strained relationships between whites and blacks in earlier generations, black families are commonly faulted for holding biases and preconceptions of PWIs.

Because of this, black PWI students often clapback with their own prejudices. HBCUs are often stigmatized as "ghetto", and 'unorganized', and that funding them only further encourages racist attitudes and divides. Another stigma is that degrees received at HBCUs are not as legitimate, either because of the social environment of the campus or the difficulty of

the courses. Having a history of being systematically disadvantaged, some accusations leveled at HBCUs fall stingily true, but are changing with every passing academic year.

Making decisions other than what is expected of you is apart of personal growth and discovering a separate identity. It becomes divisive when black Americans shame and guilt each other for their choice in education. The generational theme of division in the black community is a large part of why the race struggles with presenting a unified front. The crab mentality, where a person purposely hinders anyone doing better than themselves from succeeding, keeps black Americans from being proud that any person of color is receiving an education.

At the end of the day, progress is progress. A college is similar to a shirt. When you put a shirt on that isn't your size, you can tug on it all you want but it won't fit. You can smile all you want, but if the fabric is itchy, then it's not for you. The color of the shirt can complement your eyes all day, but if you don't like it then it doesn't matter. Selecting a university (or two year college) is a personal choice and not one size fits all. Like a shirt, your HBCU or PWI has to feel and look right for you. Not anyone else.

Representation vs. Representatives

By Anaya Wesley
Opinion Editor

Blacks in America have often struggled to receive equal opportunities for greatness. The phrase black parents often repeat to their children "You have to work twice as hard to be half as good" has practically become a proverb in black culture. Blacks struggle to fit into an America that seems to value every other race except theirs.

That being said, when blacks do manage to do something that warrants recognition and attention, everyone is all smiles. Cheers go up, claps and kudos are given, and the community beams with pride. The person who puts the black community on their back becomes a representative for the whole race, which, in turn, can be a little stressful. With so many voices, opinions, and groups in the black community, it can be

hard to get everyone's views all down on paper.

Being made this unofficial spokesperson can also act as a double edged sword. When blacks in higher positions of power and elevated platforms do something the people aren't here for, they are dragged through the mud. Disgraced from social media, their black card is revoked as well as their invitation to "the cookout".

Prominent celebrities like Denzel, Dave, Will, Angela, Beyonce, Cecily, Chance, Gabrielle, Michael, and many more all have a seat at the table. All these first names can be said without introduction because they are considered household names. They are important and act as standards for how the world should view black people in general. On the other hand, there are several black Americans that also have had large social impacts and now garner portions of that spotlight, and yet are seen as negative. Stacey Dash, Amarosa, Ben Carson, are some black Americans who's cards have been revoked or are pending reinstatement.

Instead of having a select group of notables that speak on the community's behalf, ALL black people

should aspire to be successful and have their own voice. It's not enough if just a few of us make it, we all need to make it. A major problem black Americans have is that we don't do enough to mentor the generations coming up behind us. Those of us that become successful and "Make it out of the hood" leave forever and never return. We buy a nice big house up in the hills, and only occasionally come down to grace the populace with a success story. A success story that reveals nothing on how they made it or how they gave back.

Instead of trying to run from the stigma that is the "hood", black people should instead pump money into these areas to make them a better place to live. While shining stars that stand out from the black community are very much appreciated, black Americans need more representation within influential and successful circles. One or two is not enough. A handful of us making it is not enough. Once we learn how to extend a hand back and lift up our people (and stop being selfish) impoverished black communities will see more expansion and education all around.