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The Panther

April 8, 1996

Volume 72, No. 26

Internet, new databases to aid research available in PV library

By K. CHAMAINE HENDERSON
Panther Staff

New things are happening in the John B. Coleman library to make student research and studying experiences faster and easier here at Prairie View.

Three personal computers that are open for student use have Internet access in the lobby of the library. The program *Netscape* is linked to these computers.

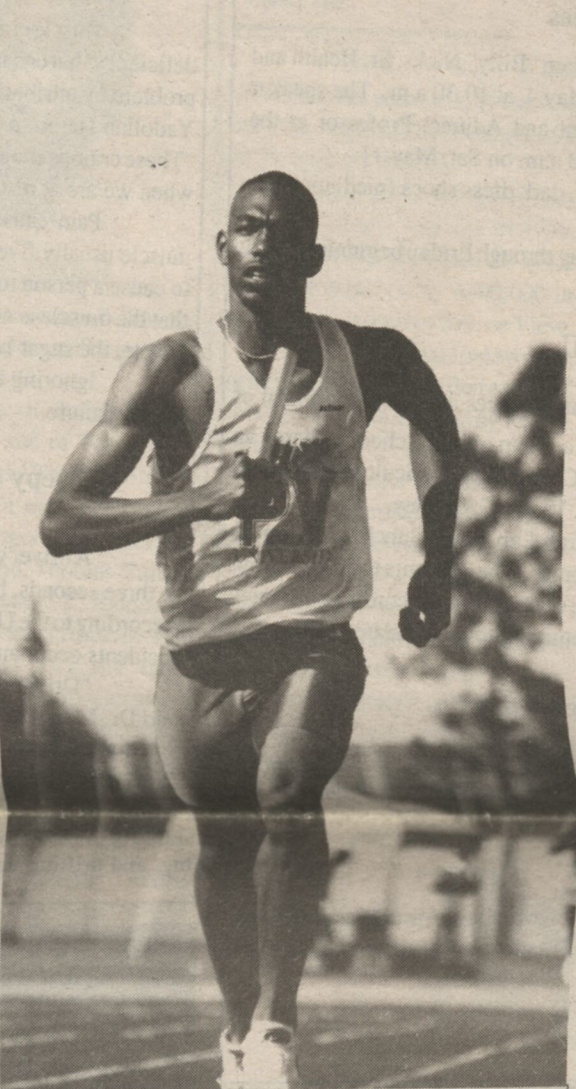
Library staffers have had access to the Internet and electronic mailing systems (e-mail) since 1989 said Coleman associate director Helen Yeh. However Internet access to students became available to students in June 1994.

Students can use the Internet, a group of computers networked together, to access information about a variety of subjects from sources all over the world Yeh said. If a student can not find the needed information by her or his own efforts, library staffers are nearby to help.

Another service that students have access to is the TexShare library resource sharing program funded by the 73rd Texas Legislature. TexShare is a cooperative program designed to improve library service to students, faculty and staff in Texas public colleges and universities. Through TexShare, students have access through the Internet and on location to libraries at most Texas public institutions of higher education. After obtaining a TexShare card from the Coleman library a student can walk into libraries at schools such as the University of Houston, University of Texas system schools, Texas A&M system schools, and Southwest Texas State University and check out books under that school's library policy.

Also available for student use is the HARLiC program. The Houston Area Research Library Consortium consists of eight major research libraries in the Houston area. Included in HARLiC are Houston Academy of see LIBRARY on page 7

The 67th PV Relays



by Gitonga M'bijewe
Shellie "Sonny" Dick runs with Panther pride at 67th Annual Prairie View Relays held at Blackshear Stadium on March 30. See story on page 4.

White wins 1996 Miss PV Pageant



by Gitonga M'bijewe
Miss Prairie View 1996-97 Danielle White smiles as she waves to the audience after being crowned Saturday, March 30 in the William "Billy" Nicks Building.

By ERICA D. JOHNSON
Panther Staff

Danielle White was all smiles as she won the 1996 Miss Prairie View Pageant held at 7:00 p.m. March 30 in the William "Billy" J. Nicks Building. First runner-up was Jenerica Wilson. Second runner-up was Andrea Baty.

White is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the National Society of Black Engineers. White received a \$2,500 scholarship award and will represent the university in a variety of ways during the 1996-1997 academic year. The theme of this year's

pageant was "Reflections of Royalty". Master and Mistress of Ceremonies were Maurice Perkins and Para Jackson.

Judges of the pageant were 1977-1978 Miss Prairie View, Tara Lewis, Sandra Adams, Reanea Parker, Alice McPherson, and Albert Johnson. Wilson received a \$700 scholarship award and Baty received a \$500 scholarship award.

Other contestants Tiffany Massey, Samantha Thomas, Claudia Buentello, Angela Johnson, Janice Walker, and Alexis Trotty.

Entertainment was provided by Carleena Lewis, Andre' Pitre, and the Classic Dance Ensemble.

Scholars honored at the 42nd Annual Spring Convocation



by Gitonga M'bijewe
Members of Prairie View's English honor society, Sigma Tau Delta, stand together after the 42nd Annual Honors Convocation held in the William "Billy" Nicks building Friday, March 25. Convocation speaker was Huel D. Perkins, a Clinton adviser.

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Briefly

Commencement Rehearsal and Ceremonies

Commencement rehearsal will be Sat., May 4, at 8:30 a.m. at the William "Billy" Nicks, Sr. Health and Physical Education Building. Commencement ceremonies will be held Sat., May 4, at 10:30 a.m. The speaker for the event will be Wilhelmina Fitzgerald Delco, Educational Consultant and Adjunct Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. Candidates for graduation should report at 9:30 a.m. on Sat. May 11.

Recommended dress for graduates will be white or dark dress clothes, dark dress shoes (medium heels for women), small earrings, jackets not necessary for men.

Caps and Gowns may be purchased at the University Bookstore Monday through Friday beginning April 1 and on Sat., May 4 and May 11.

High School Students Tour PVAMU

Prairie View A&M University's College of Agriculture and Human Sciences and the Department of Agriculture hosted Houston City Councilman Judson W. Robinson, III and a group of high school students on a campus visit recently. The visit was arranged through the efforts of the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center's Research Scientist and Coordinator, Animal Science Program, Dr. Victor G. Stanley.

The students toured the University Farm and Agricultural Research Lab before lunch. A wrap-up session and question and period preceded a visit to the John B. Coleman Library. The students took a bust tour of the campus before returning to the Houston. This is the second year of the special tour. According to Stanley and Robinson, the students loved the campus and are looking forward to returning to matriculate at PV.

Financial Aid Application Deadline Extended

The April 1 deadline for Financial Aid Application has passed. The Financial Aid Office will accept late applications until May 1. If you need financial aid for fees and expenses in the Fall, please go to the Financial Aid Office and apply now.

Communications Department Seminar

The Communications Department will be hosting its monthly seminar on Monday, April 29 at 4:00 p.m. in the Public Events room (rm. 108) of the John B. Coleman Library. The month's guest speaker will be Dr. Rick Rigsby, Speech Communication Professor at Texas A&M.

Key Dates

Spring Festival	April 8-13
Early Registration	April 15-20
Student Recognition Week	April 21-27

Health News

Certain muscle cramps can suggest severe problems

Muscle cramps during exercise are often the first sign of an enzyme deficiency that can ultimately cause kidney failure. "People often ignore this problem by attributing the muscle cramps to lack of conditioning," said Dr. Yadollah Harati, a neurologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "These cramps should not be confused with normal muscle cramps that occur when we are at rest or after exercise."

Pain caused by the enzyme deficiency occurs in the exercised muscle usually five to 20 minutes into exercise and is often severe enough to cause a person to slow down or stop. Such cramps are the first indication that the muscle is not converting glycogen, the sugar stored in muscles, into lactate, the sugar needed for strenuous muscle activity.

Ignoring the condition can lead to muscle breakdown and severe kidney failure.

Sleepy drivers should watch for sign of fatigue

A driver who dozes off behind the wheel may be asleep for only two or three seconds, but that is enough time to produce deadly consequences. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, 56,000 sleeping-driver accidents occur annually, and 1,500 are fatal.

"Drivers have no warning in the moments before they fall asleep," said Dr. Max Hirshkowitz, a sleep expert at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Although micro-sleep episodes are brief, a fast-moving car could go the length of a football field during that time.

Drivers should watch for signs of fatigue: wandering thoughts and inability to concentrate, problems keeping eyes focused and head up, inability to recall the last town passed, frequent yawning, accidental tailgating, and drifting between lanes.

THE PANTHER PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

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Newsweek

Thomas-Smith determined to be a positive force

Press Release

Texas A&M University Board of Regents met on March 22 with Prairie View A&M University's new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Emma Joahne Thomas-Smith.

It is easy to be impressed by the humbleness and humility exhibited by Dr. Emma Joahne Thomas-Smith. Her determination to be a positive force for educational progress belies the fact that the president of Prairie View A&M University and Texas A&M University System recently named her provost and vice president for academic affairs at the 120 year-old university.

Saying, "I am deeply honored and humbled by the confidence that the president, chancellor, board of regents have shown in me.", Thomas-Smith is quick to emphasize that a strong Christian upbringing is the cornerstone of her life.

In fact, she said that "I have some very deeply held Christian beliefs and those beliefs shape the way I relate to people. Organization must be governed by laws and by policies, but I am committed to



Thomas-Smith

administering in a just and respectful manner."

Speaking of Prairie View A&M University and of Texas, Dr. Thomas-Smith says, "They have been good to me and for me. They have both given me an opportunity to serve. Upon arrival in 1968, Thomas-Smith met the late Dr. George R. Ragland, Sociologist and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the late Professor and English Department Head Emerita, Dr. Anne L. Campbell. She also met Dr. George R. Woolfolk, Professor and History Department Head Emeritus who she considers a pillar of academy and of the Prairie View community.

"These people were phenomenal. They mentored young faculty and administrators, taught heavy course loads, remained professionally active and served the larger community for a pittance. Salaries were abominable considering these veterans' training and experience. The campus facilities were among the worst I had ever seen."

Truly, Dr. E Joahanne Thomas-Smith believes that the best is yet to be for Prairie View A&M University. She believes that, "First we need to move in the direction that we are headed such as offering even higher quality undergraduate and graduate programs. We must increase our graduate educational base by offering additional master's degrees and beginning to offer doctoral degrees.

Second, she believes we must increase the volume of research we foster and the number of doctorate holders we have on the faculty.

Additionally, "The day of an institution standing alone or offering services to only persons and agencies in its immediate geographic area is gone. The general public is willing to support higher education to which it can relate."

Banneker college gets \$100,000 from NEH

By KASANA REEVES
Panther staff

Prairie View A&M University has received full funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Structured by Benjamin Banneker Honors College in 1989, the grant of \$100,000 from the NEH was to be matched by \$300,000 in private funds raised by Prairie View.

The National Endowment for the Humanities certified a total of more than \$320,000 raised by Prairie View.

The major reasons for the grant were to enhance holdings in Humanities in the John B. Coleman Library and supply offerings in the Honors College and throughout the university. Also as a result of this full funding, many books will be added to the library's collection.

Dr. Jewel L. Prestage, dean of Benjamin Banneker Honors

College, said that the outcome of the proposal is spectacular.

"A college grant in the case of Banneker Honors College goals of increasing library's holdings prove to be an efficacious strategy," said Prestage. She also believes that this achievement has made way for future progress.

"This infusion of funds specifically allocated to library requisites has already enabled us to enhance our honors course program and is likely to continue in the future," Prestage added.

Others involved in the college grant were Dr. Dudley Yates, Director of Libraries and the Challenge Grant Advisory Committee consisting of Dr. Ted Shine, Dr. Imari Obadele, and Dr. Elmire Wicker.

Yates said that it's a good fortune of the John B. Coleman Library to attain enrichment of the various humanity disciplines represented through the college grant.



Dr. Jewel L. Prestage

-Banneker Dean-

"The library's ability to provide informational resources to members of the academic community will be augmented in perpetuity..for this Prairie View is thankful," Yates said.

PVAMU was happy to receive support from Texas A&M University as well as other locations.

see **FUNDING** on page 7

Three ways to beat the high cost of college.

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2. Student loan repayment
3. Part-time income

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Lifestyles

PV track team makes a run for it

By: ERIC-CHAMEL GAITHER
Sports Editor

The Prairie View men's and women's track squads opened the 67th annual PV Relays with spectacular finishes and several captivating performances at Blackshear Stadium to closeout the final day of March '96.

It was March madness Panther style, as the Panthers battled conference rivals Southern and Texas Southern.

Including the sprint medley team of Maurice Garrett, Anthony Dabney, Eric McLemore, and Dakari Jahi, several Panthers took top honors.

Kevin Garner heaved for a first place in the shot put, while Ed Ray doubled in the triple and long jumps with 50-9 and 24-0 performances.

Sonny Dick, Dabney, Garrett, McLemore, Jahi, and Keith Washington combined in several other relays - 4x100, 4x200, 4x400, and the distance medley - for second place finishes.

Danny Battle turned in a spectacular 48 plus seconds posting in his heat of the 400 meters, and clocking a blazing 47 plus split as a member of one of PV's second place quarter-mile sprint medley team runners.

The Lady Panthers attempted

to hold down the fort with a first place showing from Yvette French in the triple jump (40-0) and third in the long jump from Telisha Hill. Indoor middle distance star Sharicka Jones was up to par, once again, in her specialties.

With the conference meet two weeks away, to be held at Tad Gormley Stadium in New Orleans, La., the Panthers look to be quickly making up some important ground.

After the Texas and Pelican Relays it will be time for a SWAC style rendez-vous in New Orleans, with the Panthers doing whatever necessary to bring back a conference title.

Representing PVAMU are...



by Gitonga M'bijewe
...Danielle White, 1996-1997 Miss Prairie View, and Lawerance Warren, 1996-1997 pose as they prepare to uphold the image of PVAMU. Mr. P.V. was chosen in a pageant on Feb. 29.

Financial aid official: Beware of scams

Students and parents are often desperate for financial resources to help pay for school, making them likely targets of scholarship scams, according to the Financial Aid Information Page on the World-Wide Web.

"Every year tens of thousands of families fall prey to fraudulent scholarship opportunities," said Mark Kantrowitz, maintainer of the Financial Aid Information Page and author of well-regarded book about financial aid. "If you must pay money, it might be a scam."

Scholarship scams operate by imitating legitimate foundations, scholarship search services. They may even have official-sounding names, using such words as "national", "federal", "federation", "division", "scholarship", and thinking that they are federal agencies or grant-giving foundations.

Beware of any scholarship

that requires an application fee, even an innocuously low one like \$2, \$5 or \$10. If the "foundation" receives a few thousand applications, they can pay out a scholarship or two and still pocket a hefty profit, if they happen to award any scholarships at all. Legitimate scholarship programs do not require an application fee.

Guaranteed winnings and loose eligibility requirements are also good warning signs. "Scholarship sponsors do not hand out awards to students simply for breathing," Kantrowitz explained. "Other tip-offs include typing and spelling errors, use of mail drop for a return address, and omitting a telephone number for inquiries."

Also beware of low-interest educational loans that require you to pay money up front. Verify the legitimacy of the lender before handing over your money. Real student loans deduct the organization and insurance

fees upon disbursement, not application.

Dana Lesemann, staff attorney with the Federal Trade Commission, said, "The Federal Trade Commission encourages students to use caution when evaluating any opportunity that requires payment of fees up-front, especially those that guarantee a specific result. It's important to remember one cardinal rule: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

The Financial Aid Information Page, also known as the FinAid Page, is the most comprehensive resource for student financial aid information on the World-Wide Web. The Financial Aid Information page received a four-star rating from the Magellan-McKinley Internet Directory, was named one of the top 100 web sites by PC Magazine, and was rated among the top 5% of all web pages on the Internet by Point Survey.



MUSIC

10. Doin' It.....L.L Cool J
9. Crossroads.....Bone Thugs N' Harmony
8. M.C.Lyte featuring Xscape.....Keep On
7. Lady.....D'Angelo
6. All the Things Your Man Won't Do.....Joe
5. Kissing You.....Total
4. Life Goes On.....2Pac
3. Down Low (Remix).....R. Kelly
2. Killing Me Softly.....The Fugees
1. You're The One..... SWV

Aries

Horoscopes

ARIES (Mar 21-April 19) *Guess what ? Your time has come. What you've been waiting for will come to you very, very soon.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Listen to yourself an that little voice of reason. You can't ignore the truth. It's plain to see what must be done.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You've been to depressed lately. Do something to give yourself a pick me up. Go on a shopping spree! Play the lotto!

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You are SO confused and think there is no hope, but wait. The sign you need to tell you what path to take is coming soon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Showing affection is something you need to work on more. Open yourself up to that person you love or they'll slip away .

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Turn off the radio and put down the 40 ounce. Remember why you hear and stop wasting time and energy on things that will hurt you in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) What glitters isn't always gold. Make sure that what you're getting into is really something you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) This time you need to listen and not talk to much. You don't know as much as you think you do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Romance is something that is close in your future. But beware the end result isn't pretty.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Stop eating so much junk food. Eat something healthy that will make you feel and look better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Don't be a menace! Being the class fool is something that high school students do. Grow up and shut up in class and learn.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MAR. 20) Pick your friends closely. Your "friend" could be your worst enemy .

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P a t i e n c e

an open abyss...
 a deep dark hole
 What does tomorrow hold?
 a multi-colored rainbow?
 or a magic carpet ride?
 or even a new days birth...
 Will the past deter me from
 my future-
 as glorious and wonderful as it just might be
 or will the dark yesteryear be all that I will ever see?
 From miles away you hold me near,
 in my dreams you touch me too.
 I awake! You leave me all alone, this is what I fear.
 Ah! deja vou - it's sadly true!
 The strong black woman you know becomes a crying little girl,
 ...because my prince, my shining knight
 has shattered my entire world.
 The feeble wall of protection I have
 is to protect me from the pain
 Help protect me from the beating rain
 If you're ready to face the uncertainty of coming inside
 If you're ready be prepared because
 still might run and hide.
 This dream this magnificent dream you, have
 I keep making a dream deferred
 A tragedy, a tragedy just like a
 songbird being unheard.
 I'm trying, please understand I'm trying
 each and everyday.
 Be patient, I plead be patient...
 this is what I have to say.

by: QS-TS

You are brighter
 than the sunshines
 glow
 You are the reason
 why flowers grow
 Open your heart
 and allow me to
 enter, for you are
 rarer than a rose
 in winter.
 You are my
 sunshine.
 You are sweeter
 than the scent of
 perfume
 You are the reason
 why spring begins
 to bloom
 You chase my
 clouds away, and
 you bring joy
 where there is
 misery.
 You are my
 sunshine.
 You are the reason
 why the seas stay
 calm,
 My heart smiles
 because you give
 me love.
 You are the angel
 in my life and I
 place you above
 the stars in the
 twilight
 You are my sun-
 shine

by: De La' Ghetto

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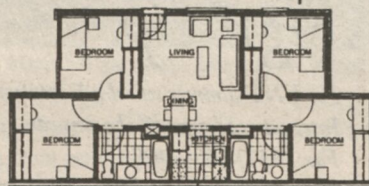
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UNIVERSITY VILLAGE

LIBRARY continued from page 1

Medicine, Texas Southern, University of Houston, Houston Public Libraries, Texas A&M, University of Texas Medical Branch, Rice University and PV. The HARLiC system works very much like the TexShare program.

"We lend about four or five times as much as we borrow," said Yeh. "I think it's not that we have more resources, but students have more information about the programs," she said.

To find out information on use and eligibility of TexShare and HARLiC ask at the Information and Reference desks at the Coleman library.

The library staff also has

access to new databases to aid students in finding information. Periodical abstracts, full texts and journals can be accessed by library staffers for students through the databases ABI Informer and ProQuest by UMI micro film services said periodicals department head Dorcas Okoro. Okoro asked that students bring a diskette on which to download full texts of documents in journals and periodicals that the PV library does not carry to print or view at another terminal.

"Sometimes I hear of teachers saying things like 'Just go to Rice for the book'," Yeh said. "I'd like for this to stop. We have a lot of services to offer students here too."

FUNDING continued from page 3

Matching funds came from private individuals such as Cullen Foundation, Exxon Company, Rockwell Fund Inc., George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, PVAMU Alumni Association, Bob and Vivian Smith Foundation, and Houston Endowment. The Office of Development and other units at PVAMU were also helpful in raising matching funds.

Prestage sums up the overall feeling of the event at hand. "Honors education as well as Prairie View A&M University has benefited immeasurably from the infusion of resources facilitated by the grant and will continue to experience its effects over time."

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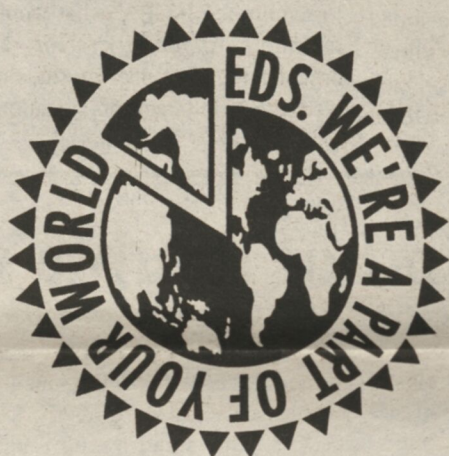
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March 18, 1996

Dear Faculty and Students,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance and the kindness shown during my recent illness. Your quick thinking and calmness were crucial factors in getting the emergency medical attention I needed at the time.

The phone calls, cards, visits and prayers are appreciated more than I can say. Presently, I am feeling much better. I have returned to work and I look forward to seeing each of you in person.

In particular, I would like the two students who helped me at the time I took ill in the GYM, to come by the Fiscal Office or call me at 857-2024, so I may know who you are.

Please continue to pray for me and it is my prayer that God will continue to bless and keep each of you.

Sincerely,

Glodene Bledsoe

Viewpoints

Dear Jaquita



Jaquita

Dear Gentlemen,

Since you have appointed yourself the king of the "Good Guys", there's no need to beat as round the bush, your highness.

Before you can assume that women are purposely picking men other than your type, you must first look at YOU and determine where the problem truly lies.

There is no such thing as a perfect person. But there is a perfect person for you. Try not to have this never ending preoccupation with trying to conform into some mold that all "Good Guys" must have. Be your self and the person your suppose to be with will love you for just that.

Everyone has a right as human beings to be selective. Now if the person you would like to be with doesn't find you to be the one, well that's their loss. You must realize and understand that you must be confident in yourself before anyone else can.

So, your highness my advice to you is to be HARD ! She'll come along when the time is right. Being extra sensitive to the situation will only make it worse, so be gentle but be a man.

Have faith in yourself and the idea that the person of your dreams will come along sooner than you think, just wait.

Signed,

A Gentlemen

Dear Jaquita,
How are you ? Hopefully well. Maybe you can give me a good opinion on something. Why does it seem that our beautiful Black sisters go after a certain type of man ?

Let me explain my self: I am a 18-year-old young man who has been brought up well. I was taught to be a gentleman no matter what. I open doors and like to wine and dine women as well. But some young women insist on having the athletic type superman, or the dangerous gangster type man; what happened to finding someone who will treat you right ?

I'm just representing the few, proud, young gentle men who are out there and to let our women know that there are still good men out there. It may not be like you want it at the time, but we will always be good to you. So Jaquita, tell me, in your opinion why do women feel as if they are no more good men out there?

Signed,
A Gentlemen

Correction: The picture featured on the front page of the March 25 issue of The Panther incorrectly identified Dean Vivian Smith as Edna Smith. The Panther regrets the error.

Letters to the Editor:

Social organizationsdemise of collegiate purpose ?

This is a letter from an anonymous PV student who thinks the purpose of college is falling victim to a growing interest in social organizations.

I am a student at Prairie View A&M University and I am considering pledging an organization. I have friends from both Greek and Non-Greek organizations and I know the basic qualifications of becoming a member in each. The one qualification that disturbs me is the grade point average.

In a Greek organization, you need an overall 2.5, and in a Non-Greek you only need a 2.0. From talking to my friends who are in Greek organizations, I have found that there are always members interested from the time that they enter college. But many of them

become seniors and sometimes graduate before getting a chance to pledge Greek because they never acquired an overall 2.5 GPA.

How can you go through college and never, ever have a 2.5? Individuals as these tend to settle for pledging Non-Greek organizations because they only need a 2.0. Thank God that they have at least that. These people are settling for less than the potential I'm sure they possess.

I wonder if Non-Greek had to require a 2.5 GPA, what would membership be like for an organization? I wonder are students pledging Non-Greek organizations

because they like that organization, or because they don't feel like working for a higher average?

Please find it within yourself to pull your grades up because you're intelligent individuals and because you want to prove to be the best. And if you're doing it just so you can pledge Greek, then use that for an "excuse" to pull your grades up. But don't settle for less than you really are just because "less" is out there. You will always have the chance to be "a part of the crowd," but you won't always have the opportunity to be the best. Always strive to be the best!!!

A new kind of double standard

This is a letter from a Prairie View A & M University student who questions whether or not scholarship pageants are sexist.

On Thursday, Feb. 29, 1996, I had the pleasure of witnessing the 10th Annual Mr. Prairie View Pageant. The efforts put forth by the four young men who competed for the title of Mr. Prairie View are to be commended. Although I enjoyed every aspect of the pageant, I left Hobart Taylor with a very troubling question burning in my mind.

It seems that one of the contestants chose to do a very moving tribute to his daughter for his talent. As a mother-to-be who can no longer compete for any pageants on campus,

the double standards of this situation hit me in the chest like a ton of bricks.

The standing policy on campus for any female who wishes to run for any type of title states that she can "never have been pregnant" which means no children, abortions, miscarriages, etc.

What I would like to know is why isn't the same standard applicable to the young men? Is this to say that fatherhood is less of a commitment than motherhood?

And even though I can't see the legitimacy of disqualifying anyone

(male or female) from anything just because they happen to be a parent, the fact that a man with a child can compete and a woman with a child cannot is even more baffling.

I would like to put forth the challenge to the pageant coordinators, administrators, campus "lawmakers", etc., to defend this blatantly sexist policy. I think they owe it to all of the parents on campus.

Sincerely,

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NBA star Abdul-Rauf's actions justified; pits Allah against American flag

BY ZUBERI S. SHAKOOR
Guest Columnist

During spring break, America made another hypocritical move against its own constitution. Mamoud Abdul-Rauf, one of the NBA's leading scorers, was suspended for refusing to stand up to the American flag for the national anthem. When NBA officials suspended Abdul-Rauf from the league along with the \$26 million contract, he decided not to play anymore.

More recently, Abdul-Rauf chose to come back and play

for the Denver Nuggets, but he will pray during the National Anthem.

The first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. One of these rights is the freedom of speech and expression. Also, the International Law of the United Nations gives all human beings the right of self-determination. Wasn't Abdul-Rauf exercising his constitutional rights? Did not the NBA violate those constitutional rights? Brother Abdul-Rauf had spiritual and religious reasons not to salute the American flag.

The United States and its government simply hasn't made any effort to destroy the ills that

are harming the economic system and humanity. It has long been a super power in exploitation of freedom, justice, equality, and wealth. This country has long been a murderer of those who strive for humanity (Malcolm X for example); and a criminal in contaminating food products sold to the American masses and the rest of the world.

According to the teachings of the Holy Bible and the Holy Quran, the United States, which is of course in the hands of the rich oppressors, have been warned several times, "Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. You have lived

on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you." (James 5:1 5-6).

"And (Lut) (Lot in the Bible) did warn them of our violent seizure, but they disputed the warning." (Surat 54:36)

If America wants to be highly respected by human beings and be saved from the destruction that is awaiting them, then its government should be in the hands of the righteous servants of Allah (God). The 50 stars in the blue field of the United States flag should be replaced by the star and

crescent which represents righteousness and true 'ummah' (Universal Brotherhood) submitting to the Al-Khaaliq (the creator). Through this procedure, America will one day become the world's spiritual superpower instead of the evil materialistic world power it is now. The people of this land need to look beyond the media, government, and those poisonous U.S. history and government textbooks and study to know the real deal of what America is all about.

Mamoud Abdul-Rauf is a servant of Allah, not a servant of man. This is why the NBA and the rest of this country hates him. As-Salaam-A-lakim.