

Rolling on 2 wheels saves cash

MARTA GOERTE
Co-Editor

PJC students are saving money on gas. Student David Kelly rides his Kawasaki KLR 650 from his home in Ridgeway, 32 miles to the Greenville campus and also attends classes on the Sulphur Springs campus, which is 15 miles.

"I can go 200 miles on \$16," says Kelly. He learned to ride a motorcycle as a young boy and has been riding ever since.

"I always wear a full face helmet, leather gloves and

a padded jacket for protection," he says.

"Always watch your surroundings," Kelly adds. "It's not me I'm worried about, it's the other people." Kelly says he has been in three close calls in the past six months, but has never been in an accident.

Luke Krogman and Tara Wood, PJC students in Paris ride their 250cc Kawasaki Ninjas to school. "My truck gets ten miles to the gallon and my motorcycle gets 55," Krogman said. Both Krogman and Wood always wear helmets and put safety first, they say.

Over the past year, with gas prices increasing, many people, and especially students commuting to college are looking for less expensive, economical transportation. Motorcycles are what many people turn to. Motorcycles are reliable, much less expensive than cars and get great gas mileage, but are also controversial because of the danger factor.

Of course, there are many ways to help prevent serious injuries.

The Department of Public Safety strongly encourages riders to attend a professionally taught motorcycle safety course, wear protective equipment, especially helmets, drive defensively, avoid driving while intoxicated and avoid speeding. Motorcyclists wearing proper protective gear greatly reduce their chances of injury if involved in a collision.

According to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, motorcyclists should be visible – many vehicle drivers have a hard time seeing motorcycles, so wearing bright colored clothing, or protective jackets with reflector tape make riders easier to see. Make sure the headlights on the motorcycle are in working order.

The foundation also suggests riders apply effective mental strategies – It's



Courtesy photo

David Kelly, PJC student on the Greenville and Sulphur Springs campuses rides his Kawasaki KLR.

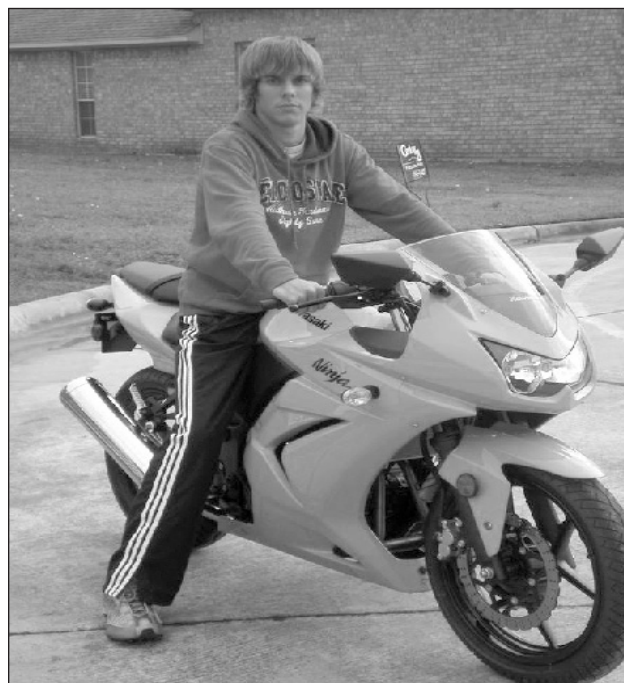
suggested that the riders pretend they are invisible and ride extra defensively, watch for turning vehicles, signal moves in advance and allow plenty of space and time to respond to other motorists' actions.

Finally, know the bike and how to use it – Get formal training and take refresher courses and practice riding techniques before going into heavy traffic. Know how to handle the bike in various conditions, such as wet roads, sandy roads, high winds and uneven surfaces.



Photo by Randi Johnson/The Bat

Tara Wood, PJC student on the Paris campus with her electric blue Kawasaki Ninja.



Courtesy photo

Luke Krogman, PJC student rides to the Paris campus on his lime green Kawasaki Ninja.

Students attend PTK leadership conference

Phi Theta Kappa Leadership conference was held on October 3-5 at University of Texas at Dallas. Students pictured are from the Beta Zeta chapter and are dressed up for a Halloween party. Left: Ali Pry and Caitlin Commiato from Paris with Santo Randazzo from San Antonio. Right: Omar Sanchez-Sulphur Springs, Cassie Gaddis-Sulphur Springs, Jed Allen-Greenville, Jennifer Boyd-Sulphur Springs and in front, Dr. Cynthia Steward.



Opinion / News

Opinion

Smart ideas needed for economic woes

KELLY SHURBET
Staff Writer



As a nation, we are beginning some of the toughest times in our history.

AIG is the biggest insurer in the nation and it is collapsing as a public corporation. As an ex-employee of AIG I, felt they were the most people-oriented corporation I had ever been associated with but I still have to ask: should we bail out our failing corporate entities? No.

Throwing money at problems does not correct the broken situation. Money does not absolve

pain or reverse the past. Nor, in this current economic climate, will it stop the tidal wave already in motion.

We now, more than ever, need to discuss problems, demand changes, and help one another. One person or sector of our society does not hold the key to correcting

our current situation. America's future appears gloomy, but does it need to be?

America is still the best country in the world. She is an infant in the eyes of time and like any young person, she has made some mistakes. Can we correct the problems? This American says, "Yes

we can."

Youth of today will hold in their hands the possibility of limitless knowledge and capabilities. But without good leadership in education, economics, and environmental awareness, even the greatest potentials can be lost or destroyed. The future is still in the hands of those who want to make the changes and learn from mistakes.

As a nation we are beginning some of the toughest times in our history.

During the great depression and WWII we came together and moved our country in ways no one ever dreamed possible. That same momentum is needed today. The fuel behind this movement will be necessity, the great mother of all inventions.

- Economics are the fundamental principles behind the human exchange of possessions. As humans, we tend to hoard commodities, which has resulted in a worldwide balance sheet that is currently in the red. An answer to our

Opinion

Stress is simply just real life

STEPHANIE NORMAN
Co-Editor



Stress is what most people know it as, but the real name is life.

It's going 150 miles an hour and steaming with rage. Under the shell, sparks are ignited.

The internal material is shaking with force from the outer atmosphere.

As teeth clenching as this unknown feeling is, one day it will find its way into your body and you will have to suffer its side effects, too.

No, it is not a race car: it's stress.

It's similar to the feeling of a strong tension pulling and pushing your insides.

You can't think straight, your head begins to ache, and all you want to do is sleep the pain away.

Stress is what most know it as, but the real name is life.

The world is an abstract piece of mind that young ones have not yet found. Trying to understand how and why things are the way they are is beyond your attention. At such a young age, "stress" is not in your vocabulary.

Little kids sit and play

with plastic Barbie dolls for hours on end. Kids dress the dolls up and make them do anything they want. That's all there is to it.

Kids play the role of the decision makers. The dolls act as models of what kids believe to be true. The dolls have a perfect little world with no worries.

There is only one thing missing, and that is life... they are fake, plastic, toy dolls.

Finals, deadlines, and

Homecoming: time to vote

WHITNEY TURK
Staff Reporter

October 20-21, students will nominate homecoming queen and king between 8 and 11:30 a.m., at a table in the main hall of the Administration Building; between 11:45 a.m. and 1 p.m., in the cafeteria, between 1:15 and 5 p.m., in room 109, of the Student Center.

All students nominate up to five men and women. Nominees must be sophomores at PJC, with thirty or more hours, and

The Bat

The Paris Junior College student newspaper
Comments and views in *The Bat*, the student newspaper of Paris Junior College, reflect thoughts and opinions of individual writers and are not necessarily the views of other students, staff members, faculty, administrative offices, or the PJC Board of Regents.

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The Bat welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, signed, and include a telephone number. Mail letters to *The Bat*, 2400 Clarksville St., Paris, TX 75460. Letters will be edited for spelling, grammar, and libelous statements.

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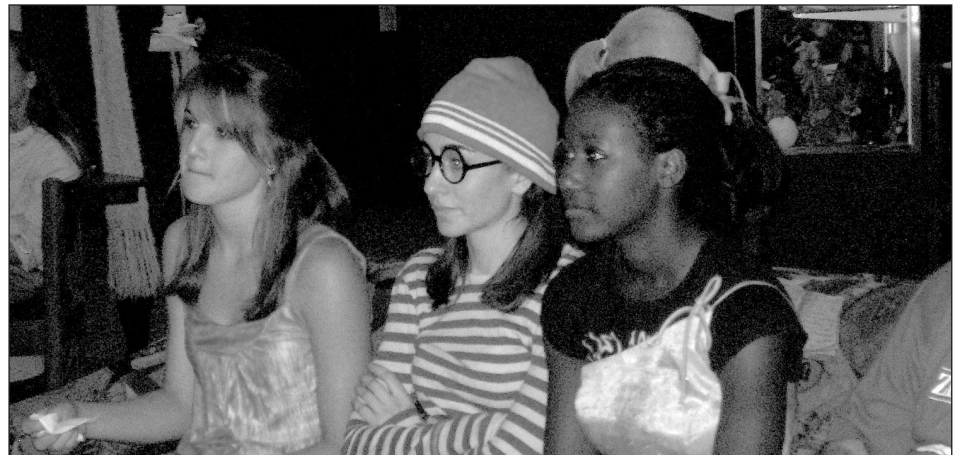
Features

Banned books bring out creativity at PJC

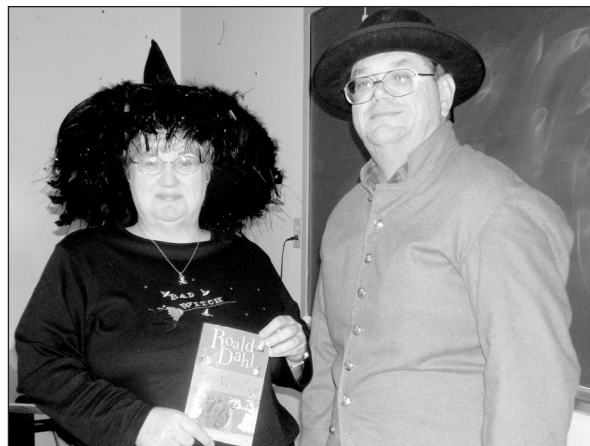


STEPHANIE NORMAN
Co-Editor

Sponsored by the American Library Association, Banned Books Week: Celebrating the freedom to read, is observed during the last week in September every year. This year marked the 27th anniversary. Staff members and students dressed up as a “banned book” to show honor. To the left is, Beth Shelton dressed as Huckleberry Finn, ‘Adventures of Huckleberry Finn’ by Mark Twain. Bottom, Marsha Dennis and Carl Covert dressed as a witch from the book “The Witches,” and Covert, the book “Gone With the Wind.”



Above are students, Annisa Dejoux, Caitlin Commiato, and Denecia Graham. They listened to Dr. Pamela Anglin read “The Color Purple” out loud in the foyer of the library.



To the right is Diann Mason, dressed as Professor McGongall from the “Harry Potter” series. She carries her broomstick and banned book in her arms as she heads to the library.



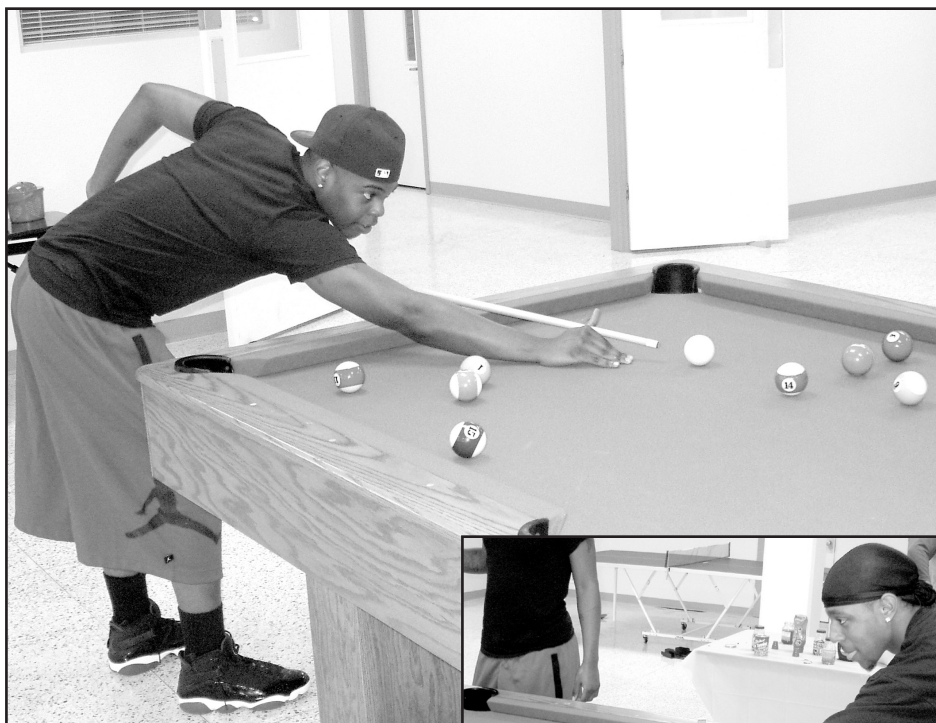
Student Center grand opening

Hot dogs, ice-cream, punch, X-Box and a pool table

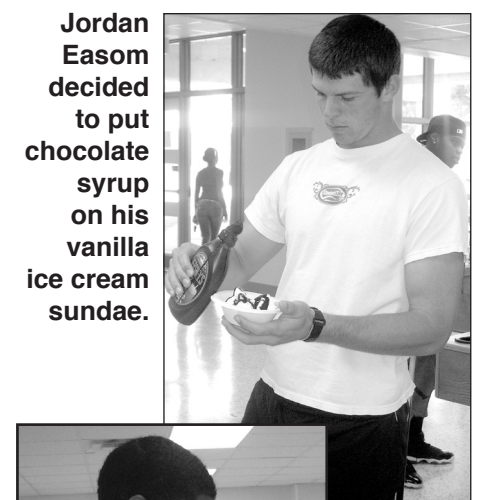
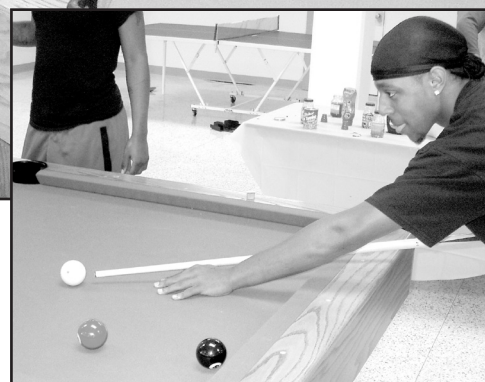
PHOTOS BY WHITNEY TURK



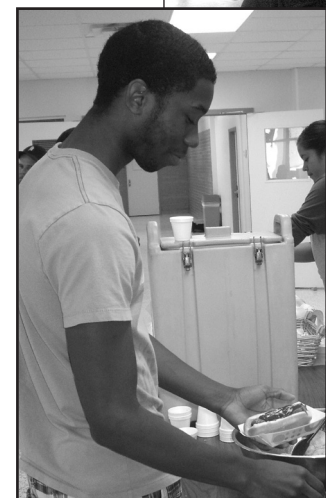
PJC student, Jennifer Sneed, decides to put whipped cream on her ice cream after carefully choosing out of the many options there were. Along with the whipped cream, there was chocolate and caramel syrup, peanuts, cherries, and sprinkles. The “make your own sundaes” really made a big hit with the crowd.



Above is, AJ Rockwell, PJC athlete, plays a game of pool against friend, at right, Chris Bonner, also a PJC athlete, during the grand opening.



Jordan Easom decided to put chocolate syrup on his vanilla ice cream sundae.



Jeremy Lee, PJC cheerleader, carefully places ketchup on his hotdog at the grand opening of the SC.

Sports / News

Basketball team scrimmages

**ALI PRY
AND
STEPHANIE NORMAN**
Staff Writers

The Paris Junior College basketball team has some big shoes to fill after going to Nationals last season.

Assistant coach, Brian Burton, said the scrimmage, held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, was a good opportunity for the freshmen to feel the difference between college and high school basketball. Burton said "speed" is a main factor for beginning college players, and the "physicalness of it," added head coach Ross Hodge.

Although both teams put forth all their effort, Hodge's team kept the lead throughout the game. It was an intense second half, as Burton's team racked up their points at a rapid pace, making the ending score a lot closer. Their first game is scheduled for 4 p.m.



What's in your portable player today?

RANDI JOHNSON
Staff Writer

This past summer, during the Olympic Games, reporters sighted many athletes plugged into their iPods. One such athlete they frequently reported on was swimmer Michael Phelps, who tunes into his before he races. More and more athletes use music to relax themselves



Chase Caldwell

and focus on their main goals.

Students at PJC also have their ears tuned into their iPods. Many students use music as a way to blow off steam and concentrate on their studies.

"I memorize what I study to the beats of the music; learn what I'm learning by matching it to the tune," said



Erin Jennings

Thousand Foot Crutch, Skillet, Hawk Nelson and Reliant K the majority of the time.

"I always have it with me and always have a

Chase Caldwell. Caldwell, a freshman this fall, owns three iPods and is tuned in eight hours a day listening to



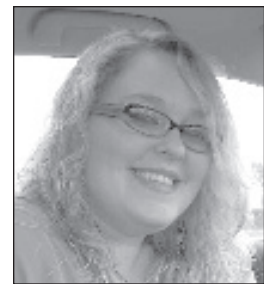
Kimberly De La Torre

song playing in my head," said Caldwell.

Erin Jennings said she has a different song playing in her head depending on whatever

mood she is in.

"The genre changes daily," said Jennings. "Anything from Rage against the Machine to Saosin. It's just about the driving base and raging vocals."



Sheridan Jones

Music is something students relate to on a personal level. "Each different genre or artist can bring out a different

side of you," said Sheridan Jones. "Growing up around music really played a big role."

Kimberly De La Torre said she relates to the lyrics on a certain level.

"Any kind helps me, mostly the beat and the