



## Exploring hidden spaces

CATHERINE JONES  
Staff Writer

The basement area of the Administration Building has, over the years, become the stuff of legend within the theater department, from typical basement concerns such as various bug infestations (watch for wasps in the spring), to more exotic fare. Drama and speech instructor Alex Peevy has, himself, had a close encounter with a wild animal.

"I was down in the washroom looking for something during a work call," says Peevy. (A work call is a day in which theater students are required to come in and work on practical aspects of a show, such as set construction.)

"I looked up, and there was a fox. He was in a shaded area, so he didn't seem scared, but we had a stare-off for about five minutes; in the end, I had other things to do, so I went back upstairs. I guess he stayed there, but the next time I went down, he was gone."

PJC students like to believe they know all the "ins and outs" of the college- but do they really? Is it possible there could be parts of Paris Junior College with which most students are unfamiliar?

As a matter of fact, there are: and some of them are in the very Administration Building in which most students spend a good chunk of their time.

For instance, the stairs across from the theater lead up to a little-known (but much-used) space with offices, a costume shop, and access to the tech booth over the theater.



Photo by Stephanie Norman/The Bat

Amanda Merx, a drama student at PJC, models her favorite costume in the storage area of the basement PJC.

Even more stairs near the West exit (near the vending machines) lead down to the basement, with plenty of storage space also used by- you guessed it- the theater

department.

"The upstairs is used for costume construction, and the basement is basically just for storage of old costumes, props, and set

pieces when they're not in use," says Peevy.

The basement area holds not only hundreds of set pieces and props, but countless costumes

from all eras, genres, and styles of shows. It's an area with which, while most PJC students give it only a passing glance, the students

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## PJC Writing Contest rewards creative students

ALI PRY  
Staff Writer

The Paris Junior College Creative Writing Contest is on. Have an English essay you made a good grade on? Send it in. More than \$1,500 will be awarded, including the William A. Owens Scholarship Award worth \$1,000.

Any PJC student is eligible if he/she is enrolled for at least six credit hours during the Fall 2008-

Spring 2009 academic year.

"I encourage all students to enter the Creative Writing Contest whether they enter a work they have done for a class or a creative piece written for their own enjoyment," said Marsha Dennis, English instructor and Creative Writing Contest coordinator.

Entries include writings from poetry, short stories, argumentative/informative essays, research essays with documentation, re-

gional literature, or narrative essays. Writers may enter all contests, but submit only one entry per contest.

The amounts of prizes range anywhere from \$70 to \$15. The winner of the Owens Scholarship Award must enroll at PJC for at least twelve hours including a three-hour English course in each of the fall and spring semesters of the 2009-2010 academic year.

To enter the contest, a student

must submit his/her entries by 4 p.m., February 25, to AD 124 on the Paris campus or the secretaries at the Sulphur Springs and Greenville Centers.

Entry forms are also available from Dennis or the off-campus secretaries. Entries may also be submitted by mail directly to Marsha Dennis, Communications Division, Paris Junior College, 2400 Clarksville St., Paris TX 75460.

Winners in each of the seven contests will be announced April 8, at 2:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom on the Paris campus. Exceptional entries will be published in the 2009 PJC anthology, "Swingers of Birches," a literary magazine.

Dennis can answer questions about any of the contests and she may be contacted at (903) 782-0317; or e-mail: mdennis@parisjc.edu.

# Opinion / News

## Opinion

# Americans look for hope through tough times

**MARTA GOERTE**  
Co-Editor

Many Americans are wondering what to do and where to turn as many of us face times of crisis and financial hardship with the impact of the declining economy. How long will it stumble before it recovers?

According to USA Today, "55 percent of Americans are cutting back on house-

hold spending as a result of recent problems in the stock markets and the economy, with 30- to 49-year-olds and families with children among those feeling the pinch most strongly."

Many people have to sacrifice some of the extra luxuries in life in order to be able to afford putting gas in their cars, paying rent and even putting food on the table for their families. What can we do to get through this



"We must stay strong and stick together as a civilization."

-Marta Goerte

tough time we're facing as a country?

When it comes to a matter of either cutting back on expenses, or winding up living on the streets, cell

phones, iPods and video games just aren't that important anymore. Those who have the extra luxuries of having various forms of entertainment, nice cars,

and expensive homes may not realize just how lucky they are.

As a student commuting almost an hour to college, gas prices have had the biggest financial impact on me. Granted, \$2 a gallon is much better than it was before at \$3.50, but it still adds up not to mention the cost of tuition, books and living. I work a part time job, but still have to cut back on things we may often take

for granted, like eating out and most extra fun activities in order to be as financially independent as I can. My parents help me when they can, but they can't do it all.

As we go through this time of economic crisis, we must stay strong and stick together as a civilization, look to the positive side of things, hope our new leadership will come through, and, within time, we will prosper as a country once again.

## Opinion

# Love found outside the box of chocolates

**STEPHANIE NORMAN**  
Co-Editor

Valentine's Day is not about love. It's simply a day created for men to feel pressured into buying hundred dollar roses and a box of chocolates to please their woman.

It's as simple as that. Ladies, don't ask for anything on February 14. If you get nothing, it is most likely because

you've been over the top on the PMS scale.

Couples should take a breather this year and try something new.

"My boyfriend lives out of town so I made him heart shaped cookies to send him on Valentines Day," student Danee Mitchell said.

Men, it is just as easy to make a girl happy without spending all of your paycheck; treat your girl

to a picnic you put together or give it your best shot and hand write a poem for her. Personal gifts are the ones that truly touch the heart.

Student Jessica Washington said it would be sweet if a man, "Led rose petals from the door to the bedroom."

"He could make you a card," student Lindee Vandergris said. Thoughtful and simple fall hand in

hand. It doesn't take a real artist to give a personalized card a touch of love.

For the ladies, why not think outside the "box of chocolates" and make your man some homemade chocolate covered strawberries. Any guy with an appetite would go for those yummy tasters.

Student Casey McLeughlin said, "She could make a CD, with

love songs, especially if you've been together a long time to show him how you really feel about him."

Valentine's Day only comes around once every 365 days. Why should we wait that long to show our feelings to the ones we love?

Student Nick Marando put it into words perfectly. "From my girlfriend, I wouldn't really want anything more than

anything she would give me any other day. I don't think any day could be more or less romantic when you're in love."

Make this February 14th a memorable one without the man emptying his wallet on roses that die in 72 hours.

Happy Valentine's Day to all those lucky pairs out there.

# PJC Hispanic Club kicks off film festival

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

The PJC Hispanic Club is hosting its second annual International Film Festival every Thursday this month in the Student Center Ballroom.

Everyone is welcome and there is no admission charge.

The films being shown

and dates are as follows:

**Thursday, Feb. 12**

**4-6p.m. - Japan**  
**Anime film (student selection)**

**6:30-8:30p.m. - South Africa**

**[The Gods Must Be Crazy](#) (1980) PG**

Three vignettes highlight the surreal in this 1980 classic comedy written and

directed by Jamie Uys.

**Thursday, Feb. 19**

**4-6p.m. - Iran**  
**[Children of Heaven](#) Bacheha-Yeaseman (1999) PG**

A delightful Iranian movie about a boy who accidentally loses his sister's shoes and must share his own sneakers with her in a sort of relay while each

attends school at different times during the day.

**6:30-8:30p.m. - INDIA**  
**[The Namesake](#) (2006) PG-13**

While he respects his immigrant parents (Irfan Khan and Tabu) and their decision to rear him in his United States birthplace, Gogol Ganguli (Kal Penn) is torn between Indian traditions

and the modern Bostonian lifestyle.

**Thursday, Feb. 26**  
**4-6p.m. - Italia**  
**[Il Postino](#) The Postman (1995) PG**

Mario Ruoppolo (Massimo Troisi), the mailman on an Italian island, pines from afar for a beautiful waitress. When exiled Chilean poet Pablo Neruda (Philippe

Noiret) comes to live on the island, Ruoppolo delivers Neruda's mail and picks up lessons on love, life and poetry.

**6:30-8:30p.m. - Colombia**

**[Maria Full of Grace](#) (2004) R**

Maria Full of Grace is the harrowing story of an atypical drug-running "mule."

## 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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### LETTERS POLICY

*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.

To reach staffers: 903-782-0321  
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# Features

## Writing Center is open for all PJC students

RANDI JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

It's 7:59 a.m., and you wake up in a panic, remembering you have a term paper due by noon today, and you need to get it typed up fast. You run to the library and every computer is occupied and no one seems to be leaving anytime soon. Your mind is racing, wondering what you are going to do.

Well there is another alternative. Located in room 125 of the Administration Building is the Writing Center. This facility is open to all students on campus. The center provides students accessibility to computers, printers, dictionaries, encyclopedias, grammar texts, and Internet access and along with tutoring by student assistants in areas of computer problems, brainstorming and writing, as well as editing.

Instructors Joan Mathis and Pam Smith oversee the center and they encourage students to find the Writing Center a very accommodating place for studies.

"The philosophy of the writing center is to assist students successfully to accomplish their degrees," says Mathis. "Not only do students receive assistance in academics, but the Writing Center staff



Stephanie Norman/The Bat

Students Mary Beth Crouch and Veasna Sum work in the Writing Center.

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in the drama department are all too familiar.

Peevy also offers insight into the history of this space.

"The costume storage area of the basement was

once a black box theater, and the rest was used as classroom space," he says.

The second-story space across from the auditorium includes not only some stor-

age space and a few staff offices (currently occupied by Rick Thomas, construction manager, and Elaine Anderson with the computer center), but also a "costume shop" where stage attire is made, altered, and repaired. According to Anderson, the costume shop was once a suite of offices used by the English department.

This space is also the only access to the theater's tech booth, where all technical aspects of a show, such as lighting and sound, are produced and operated.

The Administration Building is not the only

area on campus with hidden "treasures;" the *Bat* offices are housed on a part of campus that most students pass by without a fleeting look. It's a small, long building near the Student Center and across from Campus Security, known as the Bob Berry Office Complex.

Many years ago, the structure was built as a men's dormitory, as evidenced by the showers still present in the building.

It now houses *The Bat*, the Print Shop, and the Educational Opportunity Center, an educational outreach program that helps adults

pursue training programs.

Other spaces mentioned here, most remain locked when not in use.

In order to truly explore these areas, students must work for it, as often the only students with access to these spaces are involved in time-consuming extracurricular activities.

However, both the drama department and *The Bat* staff are always happy for an extra hand.

"We're always happy to have more people," Peevy says.

## Black History Month marked

ALI PRY  
Staff Writer

Black History Month will be celebrated at the Paris Junior College campuses.

Guest speaker Robert High will be visiting the Sulphur Springs campus on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 12:30 p.m.

The program will last about 30 to 45 minutes.

High will also travel to the Greenville campus on Wednesday to speak at 6 p.m. and again on Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

Guest speaker Victor Adams will be visiting the Paris campus on Tuesday night, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. in the Ballroom.

His presentation will last about an hour.



Stephanie Norman/The Bat

Rowdy Peacock showing off a handmade costume for the upcoming spring semester play called, "King of the Ice-cream Mountain," which is a children's play. Peacock has been involved with drama for the past three semesters.

**Right: Amanda Merx holding up some of the many costumes located down in the campus basement. There are multiple racks of clothing, along with shelves filled with shoes and props piled up from past plays.**



Stephanie Norman/The Bat

# Sports / News

## Dragon baseball team stands 3-1 after Wed. loss

The baseball team lost their first game, 14-4, Wednesday, Feb. 11, against NCTC. Then they evened it out with a win in the second game, 11-5. During that game, Britt Melton was the winning pitcher. Currently, they are 3-1 for the season.

## PJC baseball team takes double header in opener

Right: The PJC baseball team beat Grayson County College in a season opening, double-header at noon Saturday, Feb. 7, on H.L. "Hub" Hollis Field. The Dragons won the first game 1-0 and the second game 3-1. To the right, Justin Miller slides into home plate, making it the first and only runw scored during the first game of the season.



Stephanie Norman/The Bat

### Spring 2009 Dragon Softball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 10	vs. Carl Albert	2:00 / 4:00
Feb. 13	-14 - Cowtown Tournament, Ft. Worth Texas	
Feb. 13	vs. Northern Okla.	10:45
Feb. 13	vs. Rose State	4:00
Feb. 17	- Home	
	Vs. Eastern Oklahoma	2:00
	Vs Connors	6:00
Feb. 23	- @ Carl Albert	2:00 / 4:00
Feb. 27	- Temple Tournament, Temple	
	Vs. Butler County	10:00 am
	Vs. MCC	12:30 pm
	Vs. Temple	3:00 pm
Feb. 28	- Temple Tournament, Temple	
	Vs. Cisco	10:00 am
	Vs. Grayson	12:30 pm
Mar. 7	- @ Butler County	
	Vs Butler County	
	Vs Northern Oklahoma CC	
Mar. 9	- @ Eastern Oklahoma	
	Vs Connors	12:00
	Vs Eastern	2:00
Mar. 11	- @ Texarkana	3:00 / 5:00
Mar. 13	- @ Trinity Valley	3:00 / 5:00
Mar. 15	- @ Navarro	1:00 / 3:00
Mar. 18	- vs. Bossier Parish	2:00 / 4:00
Mar. 20	- vs. NE Texas	2:00 / 4:00
Mar. 22	- @ Lamar	1:00 / 3:00
Mar. 25	- @ Lon Morris	2:00 / 4:00
Mar. 28	- vs. San Jacinto	1:00 / 3:00
Mar. 29	- vs. Blinn	11:00 / 1:00
Apr. 1	- vs. Texarkana	2:00 / 4:00
Apr. 4	- @ Galveston	12:00 / 2:00
Apr. 5	- @ Alvin	12:00 / 2:00
Apr. 6	- vs. Trinity Valley	2:00 / 4:00
Apr. 15	- @ Bossier Parish	2:00 / 4:00
Apr. 18	- vs. Angelina	1:00 / 3:00
Apr. 19	- vs. Lon Morris	1:00 / 3:00
Apr. 22	- @ NE Texas	1:00 / 3:00
Apr. 25	- vs. Navarro	1:00 / 3:00
Apr. 30 thru May 2	- Region XIV Tournament at Navarro	

### Paris Junior College Spring 2009 Dragon Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Feb. 7	Grayson	Paris	12:00
Feb. 9	Eastern Okla.	Paris	1:00
Feb. 11	NCTC	Gainesville	12:00
Feb. 13	Hill College	Paris	12:00
Feb. 14	Hill College	Hillsboro	12:00
Feb. 16	Tyler JC	Tyler	2:00
Feb. 18	Grayson	Denison	12:00
Feb. 20	Carl A.State	Poteau, Okla.	1:00
Feb. 21	Carl A.State	Paris	1:00
Feb. 23	Eastfield	Mesquite	2:00
Feb. 25	NCTC	Paris	12:00
Feb. 28	Richland	Dallas	12:00
Mar. 1	Johnson KS	Paris	12:00
Mar. 4	Eastern Okla.	Wilburton	12:00
Mar. 9	Richland	Paris	2:00
Mar. 11	*Angelina	Paris	1:00
Mar. 14	*NETC	Paris	1:00
Mar. 18	*Lon Morris	Jacksonville	1:00
Mar. 21	*Panola	Carthage	1:00
Mar. 23	Eastfield	Paris	3:00
Mar. 25	*Texarkana	Texarkana	1:00
Mar. 28	*BPCC	Paris	1:00
Apr. 1	*Navarro	Corsicana	1:00
Apr. 4	*Angelina	Lufkin	1:00
Apr. 6	Tyler JC	Paris	2:00
Apr. 8	*NETC	Mt. Pleasant	1:00
Apr. 10	*Lon Morris	Paris	1:00
Apr. 15	*Panola	Paris	1:00
Apr. 18	*Texarkana	Paris	1:00
Apr. 22	*BPCC	Shreveport	1:00
Apr. 25	*Navarro	Paris	1:00
May 9-13	Region XIV Tourney at Blinn	TBA	
	* Region XIV East Conference Games		

## Dragons in Region XIV 3-way tie for second

ALI PRY  
Staff Writer

The Dragons bested the Tyler Apaches Wednesday night, 79-68, to position themselves in a three way tie with Trinity Valley Community College and Tyler Junior College for second place in Region XIV basketball play. Navarro is in first place.

The Dragons face TVCC Saturday night in the Hunt Center.

With six games to go before Regionals, head Coach Ross Hodge had said, "I'm looking forward to playing our best basketball when it matters most."

The PJC women's team was in 8<sup>th</sup> place going into Wednesday night's game against Tyler Junior College but their hopes for a trip to the regional playoffs were dashed when they lost 84-66.

According to Head Coach Kris Wood, their record doesn't show how successful they have been this year. All the games have been close, he said, with the women losing by only a few points.

Wood said, "We're right there in every game."

The next home basketball game for the men and women is Valentine's Day, February 14.

Everyone is encouraged to wear something pink at the game to support breast cancer awareness in memory of University of North Carolina coach Kay Yow, who died in January from breast cancer. Pink ribbons will be distributed to all the fans.