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12-10-1984

## Panther - December 1984 - Vol. LIX, NO. 6

Prairie View A&M University

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Ethiopian Relief

Pages 1 & 2

Gilpins Win Again

Page 1

Spring Class Schedule

Pages 5-12

the



# PANTHER

Prairie View  
A&M University

Volume 59  
Number 6

December 4-10

## GMAC announces Testing schedule

The Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) announced testing dates today for the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) used by nearly 800 graduate schools of management as a predictor of academic performance.

The 1984-85 testing schedule includes administrations of the examination on:

October 20      March 16  
January 26      June 15

Candidates registering to take the GMAT at testing centers in the United States and its territories pay a \$30 fee. In other countries, the registration fee is \$36.00.

Further information on registration procedures and deadlines, fees, and testing center locations are available in the GMAT Bulletin of Information. Copies are available locally from College of Business, Robert T. Taylor Hall or by writing to GMAT, Educational Testing Service, CN 6101, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6101.

In emergency situations, candidates who complete a registration form and pay a \$20 service fee may be able to register at test centers as day-of-test standbys. However, standby registration depends on the availability of space and test materials after all pre-registered candidates have been admitted.



Photo by N. Beville

### WINDMILL REPAIR

Many of the farms and ranches surrounding the Prairie View Campus use windmills to pump water for stock tanks and irrigation. When blades or rotors need attention, farmers start "At the Top," like this farmhand doing some late-day repairs.

## Regents award contracts For new PVU buildings

Three of the six major construction contracts awarded recently by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents were for projects at Prairie View A&M University.

The largest contract, in excess of \$4 million, provides for the construction of a new office and classroom building. The two remaining contracts are for the renovation of the Harrington Science Center, and construction of a central utilities plant and a water well distribution system for the campus.

The regents also appropriated \$12,000 for the design of an irrigation water well for the university's agricultural research program. All of the projects are part of the university's five-year improvement plan, which started with the face-lift of the central campus.

The next phase of the five-year plan calls for the construction of five additional new buildings: a chapel, industrial education technology building, agricultural research facility, library and science

buildings.

The university chapel is already under construction, with completion scheduled in May of 1985. The chapel will be a non-denominational facility for religious services, and will have a day-care center, office and conference room. It is located at the east end of campus, across from the president's campus residence.

Construction of the new classroom building will begin in January. The site of the new building, between L.O. Evans and Drew Halls, was the original location of the university hospital. The hospital was razed after construction of the Owens-Franklin Health Center was completed.

Construction of the industrial engineering technology building will begin this spring. The building will house the newly-created Industrial Engineering Technology school, which will train students for support positions in the engineering and industrial fields.

See Related Pictures, Page 15

## HUNGER HURTS

Houston Congressman Mickey Leland is heading an effort to raise money for the starving people of Ethiopia.

A coalition of city and state officials, corporate executives, social workers and interested citizens staged a march on Thanksgiving to publicize the fund-raising drive.

They marched from City Hall to Pleasant Grove, Leland said, in an effort to gain public attention and support for the drive.

Over 5,600 Ethiopians are dying daily because of the famine, Leland said, and the situation will become worse without massive international relief efforts.

Donations for Ethiopian relief may be sent to:

International Ethiopian Fund  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10003

OR

Hunger Coalition for Ethiopian Relief  
3217 Montrose  
Houston, TX 77006

## Gilpins sweep theatre festival awards

Prairie View's Charles Gilpin Players captured the lion's share of awards at the Southeast Area American College Theatre Festival.

Nine plays from eight universities were entered in the four-day competition, which was held at Pan American University.

Prairie View's entry, *THE SHADOW BOX*, received both the Critic's Choice and Director's Choice awards as "Best Play". Director C. Lee Turner received the Critic's Choice "Best Director" award.

Gilpin actors were also singled

out for special recognition at the awards ceremony ending the festival. Pamela Davis, Yolandra Edwards, Margo Richardson and Strode Churchwell were all named Irene Ryan Scholarship nominees. No other university at the festival had more than two nominees.

AMOCO awards for excellence in acting were received by Strode Churchwell, Pamela Davis, Mirron Willis and Reginald Jackson. Again, Prairie View actors dominated the awards, with no other university group receiving more

than two AMOCO awards.

Guest critic for the competition was Dr. Robert Benedetti, Dean of the School of Theatre at the California Institute of the Arts. Benedetti directed a German Expressionistic drama for the 1984 Olympic Art Festival.

All Irene Ryan Scholarship nominees automatically qualify for competition in the Regional Festival, to be held in January 1985 at Fort Worth's Scott Theatre.

*THE SHADOW BOX* is the Southeast Area nominee for the Regional Festival.



# Nigerian Students' Union Formed on PVU campus

By Ignatius Dikas

A Nigerian Students' Union has been formed and will work to attain unity and recognition for Nigerian Students at Prairie View, according to union president Monday Affiah.

"The problem is to get ourselves together," Affiah said. "If we do, we can enjoy a lot of benefits."

Nigerians, he said, are the largest group of foreign students at Prairie View. They had tried to organize a union previously, but had organizational problems.

"Now that we have the ball rolling," Affiah said, "we can achieve unity and recognition with the help of our executive committee."

All Nigerian students on campus should join the Union for cultural support, he said.

"Let's develop a spirit of patriotism and demonstrate our unique cultural creativity," he said.

Some activities being considered by the group for the coming year include:

\* Inviting Nigerian students from other universities to Prairie View for a one-day conference.

\* Organizing a day for all Nigerian students to wear traditional native costumes on campus.

\* Demonstrating traditional Nigerian foods and cooking methods for Prairie View students.

\* Providing a portrait of the Nigerian head of state for university archives.

\* Organizing financial aid for Nigerian students.

Union vice president Alphonsus Aguh said the executive committee will work closely with the Student Government Association in the coming semester. The Nigerian embassy in Atlanta, he said, will also be contacted for advice on activities.

"The Union has an unclaimed monetary award, provided by the federal government of Nigeria every year to the Nigerian student organizations in the U.S. through the main embassy in Washington," Aguh said. "But we cannot claim the money until the members of the organization are satisfactorily organized."

Student Government Association president Kevin Dennis said that the Association is working on a plan to include international student representatives in next year's student government.



**NEW NUMBER**  
The Panther has changed its telephone number. The new number is (409) 857-4511

## Luncheon honors

## Retired Agents

By Gloria J. Boyd

Four retired county agents and program specialists were honored at a luncheon held on campus November 9.

The four honorees were former program specialist Dr. Emerson Sanders and former county extension agents Archie Dorsey, Eddie Drum and Albert Ware.

Hoover Carden, administrator of the Cooperative Extension Program, served as master of ceremonies for the event. Prairie View A&M President Percy Pierre spoke to the retirees group about campus improvements, and musical entertainment was provided by PV student Rosalynn Holloway and Delle-nor Miles, Miss Prairie View.

A highlight of the luncheon was "Echoes From The Past", a program presented by retirees who served as Negro Agricultural and Home Demonstration agents in the Extension Service before it merged with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The retirees emphasized the importance of revitalizing the H.S. Estelle Youth Camp in Huntsville, which was purchased by agricultural and home demonstration agents and is now leased by the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View.

The camp has traditionally provided camping experiences for low income minority youth in Texas. The retired agents urged support for the camp, and pledged to raise funds for its continued operation.

Other retired agents at the luncheon were William Clark, Jr., Myrtle Garrett, Vera Dial Harris, Ethel B. Haynes, Lovie Hill, Thomas Mayes, Bernice McKay, Preston Poole, B.J. Pryor, Ruben Sanders, Lula Spears, Georgiana Thomas, Eddie P. Washington, Carl Westbrook, Sr., and Juanita Williams Young.

Current County Extension agents from Guadalupe, Harris, Travis, Waller and Washington counties also attended the event.



CLASSROOM STAR - Diana Fallis analyzes the work of communications student Marita Roberts.

# Fallis leaves Television To perform for classes

By Ron Pillot, Staff Writer

She is sharp, attractive and articulate; everything you expect from a television performer.

And Diana Fallis is a performer, in every sense of the word. But she has traded in her anchor desk at Channel 13 TV for a teacher's podium at Prairie View A&M. Her performances now are in front of students in the department of communications.

Fallis, who is a graduate of Columbia, moved to Houston from Washington, D.C., where she worked for Newsweek magazine.

"I worked for Newsweek for nine months," she said, "and I got that job by walking in and asking for it. I did a little reporting, but I started in the sports department and eventually worked in the international department."

Fallis and her husband moved to Houston in 1974, and she began working for Channel 13, the ABC affiliate in Houston. She feels that luck played a large part in landing a job in the television field.

"I fell into the visual media; it was a stroke of luck," she said. "Actually, it was easier to get into television because of what was happening in the country at that time. Blacks were emerging into the mainstream--but that's not to say it was not a challenge."

Houstonians were first introduced to Fallis as a general assignment reporter. Later, she became an anchor in the award-winning Channel 13 news department.

Her new profession, Fallis feels, is just as demanding as the television field. In her role as assistant professor in the school of communications, she teaches students what it takes to become a professional

communicator.

Why Teaching?

"Because I like human interaction," Fallis said. "I enjoy the classroom atmosphere, the learning environment and the new ideas that are brought out."

"There are pluses to being a former television performer," Fallis said. "I've become a role model, and my experience in the media brings valuable insight to the class."

In her classes, Fallis likes an informal arrangement. Students sit in a circle so that they can communicate with each other, and participation is encouraged--sometimes demanded.

Students must learn, Fallis feels, that communications is not a field for the painfully shy.

"They must learn to get tougher," she said.

Fallis has been teaching for almost ten years, mostly part-time during her television career. Does she miss the deadlines, the demanding schedule, the pressures associated with television?

"Well, let me put it this way," Fallis said. "If you like what you're doing, you don't miss what you've done."

Her students often ask Fallis what key will insure success in the media. Communications students, she feels, should know what the media is about, get a thrill from their work, and not be motivated by money.

"Money must have nothing to do with it," she said. "If people enjoy the writing and talking and expressing themselves, and it makes them feel good, then they have a chance to develop and obtain their desires."

# EDITORIAL

Is anyone out there listening?

For the past month, newspapers, television and radio have carried horrifying reports of the famine and starvation in Ethiopia. Houston Congressman Mickey Leland, as we report this issue on page 1, has been coordinating a relief drive to aid the famine victims. But where are our campus organizations--sororities, fraternities, religious groups and social service clubs? Why haven't they picked up the word about this desperate situation and started a campus drive for Ethiopian relief?

Is everybody still too tired from stuffing themselves at Thanksgiving to do some work for people who are starving to death by the thousands every day?

Maybe we're wrong. Maybe campus groups are busy planning fundraising drives.

If so, don't keep it a secret. Let us know about it--Publicity is your most effective fund-raiser.



The Baptist Student Movement presents recording star Shirley Ceasar in concert December 7. Ceasar is one of the nation's foremost gospel recording artists, with two Grammys and three gold albums to her credit. Also appearing will be Houston recording artist Mickey Moseley. Tickets for the concert, which will be held in the University Field House, are \$6.25 and \$5.25. Student tickets are \$3.00 with a student I.D.

# CORRECTIONS

In the November 17 issue of the Panther, two telephone numbers were given for the newspaper office. There is only one number available for the Panther office. That number is [409] 857-4511.

Also in the November 17 issue of the Panther, it was reported that Dr. John B. Coleman was an alumnus of Prairie View A&M University. Dr. Coleman is actually an alumnus of Fisk and Howard Universities.

The Panther regrets that this information was printed incorrectly and apologizes if it caused any inconveniences.

# BACK TALK

## Letters to the Editor

### No sports news

I am writing to ask why Prairie View A&M University sports events are never mentioned on the news or in the newspaper. Prairie View has been mentioned in the past, so why don't we hear anything about the university sports events now? I realize that Mr. Henry Hawkins of Sports Information has left us here at the university, but aren't there any people in Sports Information capable of writing stats and news items that the news media could use so we could hear about our university sports events?

Thank you,  
Terri Douglas

### Thank you From Dean

Homecoming '84 is now history and the Homecoming Committee has already begun to consider ideas for Homecoming '85. As Chairman of the Homecoming '84 Steering Committee, I wish to publicly thank the Prairie View A&M University faculty and particularly the members of the Steering and sub-committees for the success of Homecoming '84.

Dr. John D. Harris,  
Dean of Students and Chairman, Steering Committee Homecoming '84

### Failure to communicate

The question of just how many Prairie View A&M University students were aware of Proposition 2 and the effect it would have on the University remains relatively unknown.

Taking into consideration the amount of printed material and verbal information conveyed, the number of students familiar with Proposition 2 seemed practically nil.

Yes, it has already been voted upon. Yes, Prairie View is now entitled to six million dollars for the next ten years. That's great.

But...if communicating the necessary information regarding the importance of Proposition 2 to the students had been done much earlier than it was, it would have added bulk to the ballots for getting the money that much more by bringing the University together as a whole in the endeavor.

If the administration, the press, and the media are responsible for keeping the faculty and students abreast of what goes on and if the information is beneficial to the University as a whole, then there seems to be a break in the lines somewhere.

Yes, the Panther got information into the paper about Proposition 2. Maybe a week and a half before election day, that is. Proposition 2 had been a major issue for weeks before-hand concerning Prairie View.

There were also quite a few

posters hanging around the campus giving a brief summary as to what Proposition 2 would do for PV.

But the hanging thread to the whole sad story is that when election day crawled around, there seemed to be quite a few who were unaware of Proposition 2. That's pretty sad.

Now that the University gets the money, let's see what programs will receive money first.

But that will be another story.  
Sincerely,  
Hattie Horn

### Food for thought

To the Panther:

I am a freshman student here at Prairie View University and there is an issue that has puzzled me since day one of arriving here on campus, and that is the food. It's sad to say but the food is horrible; not only taste itself, but the combination of menus used. Too many starches are being used in the same meal which only gives a person a full feeling. By the time a person gets ready to leave they are hungry again. This is a situation that should not be dealt with lightly, but with care and consideration for everyone involved.

Sincerely yours,  
Eric Cooper

## Applications for Editor of the Panther

The requirements are that a student must be registered at PVAMU; have an overall GPA of 2.75; have completed Newswriting I and Media Law with a grade of "B" or better (or the equivalent); attend a PANTHER workshop when scheduled just prior to the commencement of classes; write an essay on editorial philosophy; and be interviewed by the Student Publications Board.

See Dr. Jack D. McNamara, Hilliard Hall, Rooms 216 or 129, for application forms. Or call at 4511 for information.

# NEWSBRIEFS

Prairie View graduate Roland E. Long, now employed with Houston Independent School District, presented a career and leadership symposium for agriculture students during Homecoming Week. Income for the agribusiness industry, Long told the students, is expected to double by 1995, with crop yields increasing by 55 percent. Future careers, he said, will focus on nitrogen fixation, photosynthetic efficiency and alternatives to conventional pest control. Long, who received his bachelor's and master's degrees from PVAMU, is now a Doctoral candidate in Horticulture at Texas A&M University.

Assistant art professor Clarence Talley has an exhibit in the 1984 Regional Black Artists' Exhibition. The Exhibition runs through February 28 at the George Washington Carver Museum in Austin.

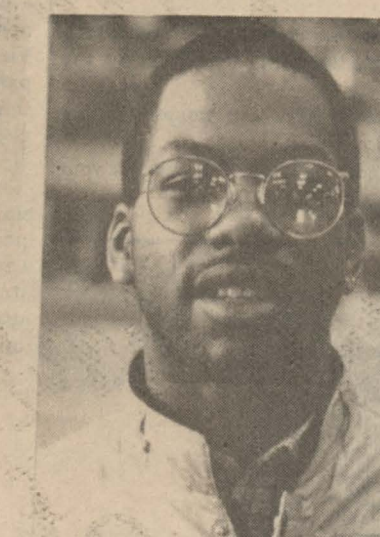
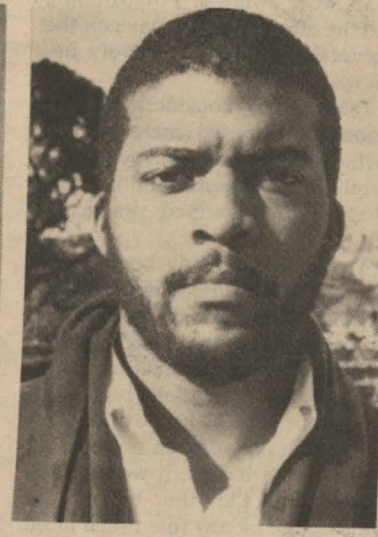
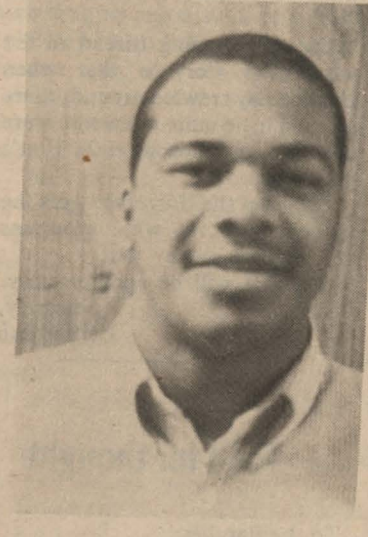
Hulen Davis, political science instructor, participated in a conference entitled "Star Wars: The Strategic Defense Initiative" at Texas A&M University on November 16-17.

Drs. Patricia Brooks, William Parker and William Moore presented a panel discussion at the Third National Title Three Personnel Conference in New Orleans. The Prairie View faculty members discussed a model for implementing a structured basic skills program at open admissions institutions.



# Student Opinions 'On the Yard'

"What do you think about the new 'PANTHER'?"



**CLARENCE MAGEE:** I think the Panther is the pride of Prairie View. I love to read the paper because it is so informative. To the staff--keep up the good work. I enjoy reading the paper so much I would pay for it if I had to.

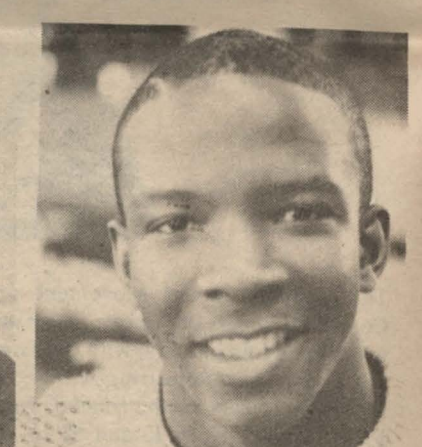
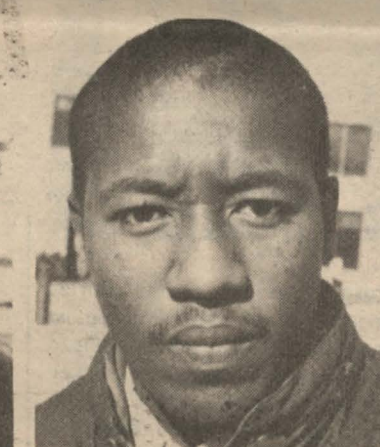
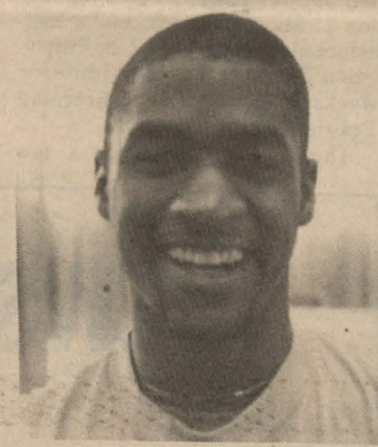
**JAMES POINDEXTER:** The Panther's new look is very nice but I think it only covers surface issues. I feel the Panther should begin to deal more with national and world issues and have a student editorial page to voice complaints or comments on various issues.

**BURT LACOUR:** I feel that the Panther is a very informative paper. I think it's a great way for journalism and communications majors to apply themselves to their future careers. The issues that are treated are ones that are asked about daily, so it's pretty much up to date.

**CECIL SHEPARD:** I think the look of the Panther is NEW. The stories are very much to my liking and the pictures are well focused. The front page makes me want to look through the whole paper and not just shuffle through it.

**PAMELA YEARGIN:** I have been a student here for two years now. I have seen improvement in the Panther this year as far as photos and articles that the students write. Also the Homecoming issue was very interesting. So I say to the staff, good luck and keep it up.

Photos and Interviews by Rayford Outland



**DARREN MILLER:** The new look of the Panther gives the reader a lot more than the old Panther. The students take more interest in reading it because of better pictures and more exciting articles.

**MARCIA ARMSTEAD:** I think the new look of the Panther is a great improvement. The university is changing in many ways, and this is just one improvement among many.

**HENRY LOWREY:** I think the new Panther has a professional look both in campus life and community stories. But I think that certain issues like financial aid need further mention.

**RODNEY HUDSON:** The new look of the Panther should give school spirit a boost. The students are more interested in the paper because of interesting articles and good photos.

# Prairie View A&M University

## Spring Schedule of Classes

# 1985

DATE	TIME OF EXAMINATIONS								
	8:00-10:00	9:00-11:00	10:00-12:00	11:00-1:00	12:00-2:00	1:00-3:00	2:00-4:00	3:00-5:00	5:00-7:00
MONDAY DECEMBER 10		Classes Meeting at 4:00PM M-W-F		Classes Meeting at 1:00PM M-W-F		Classes Meeting at 12:30PM T-TH		Classes Meeting at 5:00PM M-W-F	
TUESDAY DECEMBER 11			Classes Meeting at 9:30AM T-TH		Classes Meeting at 8:00AM T-TH		Classes Meeting at 10:00AM M-W-F		Classes Meeting at 5:00PM T-TH
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12		Classes Meeting at 8:00AM M-W-F		Classes Meeting at 11:00AM M-W-F		Classes Meeting at 2:00PM T-TH		Classes Meeting at 6:00PM T-TH	
THURSDAY DECEMBER 13			Classes Meeting at 3:00PM M-W-F		Classes Meeting at 2:00PM M-W-F		Classes Meeting at 3:30PM T-TH		
FRIDAY DECEMBER 14		Classes Meeting at 9:00AM M-W-F		Classes Meeting at 11:00AM T-TH		Classes Meeting at 12:00M M-W-F			

**COLLEGE REP WANTED**

to distribute "Student Rate" subscription cards on campus. Good income, no selling involved. For information and application write to: **CAMPUS SERVICE, 1745 W. Glendale Ave, Phoenix, Az. 85021**

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THE PRAIRIE VIEW PANTHER

December 4 - 10, 1984

Table with columns: COURSE, SECTION, REF #, DESCRIPTIVE TITLE, INSTRUCTOR, DMS, TIME, HRS, and various course details. Includes courses like FINANCIAL MARKETS, FINANCIAL DECISIONS, and FINANCIAL SYSTEMS.

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Table with columns: NAME, GRADE, TIME, DAYS, HOURS, COURSE, SECTION, REF #, and INSTRUCTOR. Lists students and their schedules for the week of Dec 4-10, 1984.

Table with columns: NAME, GRADE, TIME, DAYS, HOURS, COURSE, SECTION, REF #, and INSTRUCTOR. Continuation of student schedules for the week of Dec 4-10, 1984.

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Table of names and initials for the December 4-10, 1984 issue of The Prairie View Panther. Includes names like ELEG 4011, ELEG 4012, etc., and initials like T, W, M, F.

Table of names and initials for the December 11-17, 1984 issue of The Prairie View Panther. Includes names like ELEG 4023, ELEG 4024, etc., and initials like T, W, M, F.

NEWSBRIEFS

THE SECOND ANNUAL WALLER COUNTY SMALL FARMERS Awards banquet was held November 18 in the Waller County courthouse. The banquet was to recognize small farmers in Waller County for outstanding production.

PRESIDENT PERCY PIERRE spoke to researchers at the Fifth Biennial Research Symposium in Dallas October 23-26. Pierre told researchers that their greatest challenge is attracting the best minds in the country into the agricultural professions.

NATHELYNE KENNEDY, PRESIDENT OF HER OWN civil engineering firm in Houston, was the guest speaker at a department of Architecture seminar November 9. Kennedy, an 18-year veteran in the engineering profession, spoke on the growing role of women and minorities in the industrial field.

THE TENTH ANNUAL HOUSTEX TOOL AND MANUFACTURING Engineering Conference and Exposition will be held at the Albert Thomas Convention Center January 22-24. The Exposition will feature demonstrations of more than \$3.4 million worth of advanced machine tools, precision machining equipment and related manufacturing systems.



RIVER WALKERS

Prairie View nursing students pause in their tour of San Antonio's famed Riverwalk.

Nurses take tour Of Army facility

Thirty-five PVAMU pre-clinical nursing students attended a Nursing Orientation Tour at the U.S. Army Academy of Health Sciences in San Antonio November 15-17.

The tour was sponsored jointly by the university and the department of the Army, and had three objectives:

- to introduce the students to an Officers Basic Course environment
to introduce students enrolled in the university nursing curriculum to the Army's nursing program through an intensive orientation exercise at the medical service school
to have students interact with Army officers of various branches during a seminar in training and social environments.

The tour included visits to San Antonio's Riverwalk and the Tower of the Americas, a luncheon and an evening social at the Fort Sam Houston officers club.

Colonel Charles Anderson, Jr., professor of Military Science, and nursing college instructor Lillian Bernard accompanied the students on the tour.

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Yet that is what the other evening news shows try to do. Not just with the Middle East, but with many complex issues. That's why you should watch The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour every weeknight on public television. News stories get the time they deserve. The time you deserve. You get more facts about a story. You get different sides. Most important, you get the analysis you need to understand the issues behind the stories. Major funding for The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour is provided by AT&T, the national corporate underwriter.

The MacNeil/Lehrer NEWSHOUR Weeknights on Public TV





# Manager says Food Service improving

By Bert Bilton, Staff Writer  
 Prairie View's food service, ARA, has been subject to much criticism in the past but new management and changes within the system have altered the critical attitudes of many students.  
 "This year has been progressive compared to past years," said operations manager Ronald Bell. A Prairie View graduate, Bell is joined this year by two new managers, Earl Williams and Paul Zake.  
 The new staff has taken action on promises made by previous ARA management.

Bell said that he is receiving fewer complaints from the students, but that there are still problems in the dining hall.  
 "Sanitation is our biggest problem," he said. "We have enough workers but it is hard to cover the whole building because it is so large."  
 The building's size, he said, makes it hard for employees to keep tables clear of trays left by students.  
 The Homecoming barbecue and Thanksgiving dinner boosted students' attitude toward ARA ser-

vices, Bell feels. These two events were planned by the managers, who think that they were successful.  
 "We let the students serve themselves during the Thanksgiving dinner and it went well," Bell said.  
 Bell said he would like to see students form an active foods committee so that he and his staff can determine exactly what types of food would be most popular.  
 Within reason, he said, heavily requested foods can be worked into the menu within three weeks.



**THANKSGIVING FEAST** - Prairie View students were treated to a holiday banquet coordinated by ARA food services. ARA managers plan to prepare similar banquets each year.

# Student author serious about writing

By Hattie Horn  
 Student playwright Romel Ellis takes his writing seriously.  
 "It took virtually seven months of blood, sweat and tears to complete my play *BLACK AIN'T IN THE RAINBOW*," he said.  
 The play, directed by Dr. Ted Shine, will be presented by the Charles Gilpin Players the week of December 4-7 in the Hobart Taylor Little Theatre. Performances will be at 8:00 p.m.

Ellis, a freshman drama major from Los Angeles, based his script on actual persons and situations from his adolescence. The names have been changed and the scenario updated, he said, but the story is true.  
*BLACK AIN'T IN THE RAINBOW* tells the story of Karlton, a sensitive, streetwise youth who wants to break out of his miserable ghetto existence. He is caught in a web of difficult decisions concern-

ing his girlfriend Joanna, his aunt Josephine and his buddy Soldier, all of which contribute to the powerful ending statement of the play.  
 Director Shine, who is chairman of the drama program at Prairie View, is pleased with the script.  
 "I was happy that Romel finished the script," Shine said. "Not many playwrights will finish what they start, and Romel was able to go back and improve his rough draft with credible results."  
 Shine said that having Ellis at rehearsals had caused no problems with his directing.  
 "In fact," he said, "it's much easier with him here."

Ellis said that he had no trouble writing the play because he used sensory recall.  
 "I did research on abortion, an issue which comes up in *BLACK* -- I wanted to be accurate when I referred to it," he said.

Ellis explained that there are three things he keeps in mind when he writes -- truth, sincerity and openness.  
 "I used them when I was writing," he said, "and that's what I want the audience to see in the show."  
 Ellis said he is confident that the Gilpin Players will portray his characters effectively and put his message across to the audience.  
 Another play is already in the works for the student playwright, and he has already completed a one-act drama entitled *MY BE-LOVED FATHER*, which will be directed by a student later this year.  
 Unlike most first-time playwrights, Ellis is outwardly cool and optimistic as he looks forward to opening night.  
 "What happens, happens," he said. "I'm just going to sit back and wait to see what happens."



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