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Meeting with the Band

George C. Wright

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Meeting with the Band.

September 16, 2008

As President of PVAMU, I am extremely proud of “The Marching Storm,” you the members of our band. Over the five years I have been here you have performed on numerous occasions, and there are at least three occasions where I personally appealed to Prof. Edwards for you to perform: State Senator Royce West’s “Governor For A Day,” Program, this year for MLK Day for U.S. Congress Woman Shelia Jackson Lee, and for the Braham Parade where State Representative Lois Kolkhorst was involved.

I am looking forward to upcoming activities: this Saturday before 80,000 in College Station; then the next Saturday in LA, and then the Saturday after that at the State Fair Classic when we play Grambling, and of course for the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, January 1, 2009.

Key Point: Your outstanding accomplishments will be more than offset by any negative publicity from hazing.

Two examples from other Universities: Texas Southern University’s band behavior in Japan.

Florida A&M, law suits, prison time.

What is hazing: (1) The law defines hazing; (2) anything not written down that someone in the group (or even an outsider) requires someone to do.

Last week, we made the decision that you would not perform at the game with Texas College. What have you learned as a result of that suspension?

There are several band members who did not take the suspension or training seriously and they will not be participating in the upcoming activities.

Key Point: Our Attorney was very clear on our upholding Texas Law. The response from the Chancellor and the Chair of the Board of Regents.

Another Key Point: If hazing continues we will take the necessary steps to bring this illegal, criminal behavior to an end. Unfortunately, the acts of one can reflect and hurt the entire group.

We are very serious, but what about you???? Right now, "Out someone" who has threatened you once they found out about the suspension a week ago. Their threat constitutes, "A Clear and Present Danger."