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Many people take the soothing sounds of the campus radio station for granted, but ever wonder about the people behind the voices? Here's your chance
See page 10

Some moments in sports are great, some embarrassing. Find out the best and worst moments for some of Prairie View's athletes
See page 12

The Panther



Vol. 66 No. 10

Prairie View A&M University

Prairie View, Texas 77446

April 13 - April 26, 1989

Miss PVAMU 89-90 Mary Ann Palmer



Photo by Jeff Armstrong

Miss Prairie View 1989-90 Mary Ann Palmer hopes to be a country singer

New Queen Still Old Self

By Gregory Smith
Editor-in-Chief

Country/Western music may definitely find its niche on the campus of Prairie View, since Miss Prairie View 89-90 Mary Ann Palmer's rendition of Reba McEntire's *Little Rock* had the crowd at the pageant on their feet with minute after minute of applause.

Palmer was the first Miss Prairie View to sing a country song for the talent portion of the Miss Prairie View pageant. She says she did it "because I grew up in a small country town where I listened to country music a lot."

She grew up and still calls

Bellville, Texas, 20 miles from Prairie View on Hwy 159, home. She explained that growing up in the country atmosphere encouraged her to sing country music.

"It helped inspire me to sing country/western," Palmer explained. "It's something I enjoyed doing."

Palmer admitted she did not expect a standing ovation or the long applause after she finished her song.

"I'm really glad they (the audience) liked the song," she said.

The applause and standing ovation are only small parts of the joy and excitement she has felt since winning the crown. Ecstasy was the one word she used to describe the moment

she was announced the winner.

"I thought I was going to cry, after all the hard work," Palmer said. "I just said 'God, We did it, we did it.'"

The win ended a long year of planning and preparation for the pageant. Palmer said she had originally been encouraged by Glenda Bates to go for the title after a freshman talent show performance, but did not get her real inspiration until last year's coronation of Rachele Fisher as Miss PV.

"It wasn't until I saw Rachele at her coronation ball that I said 'That's going to be me, I want that,'" she explained.

Preparing for the pageant

See "Palmer" page 7

Train Hits Car, Kills Three at PV Crossing

Gregory M. Smith
Editor-in-Chief

A Pasadena police officer, his pregnant wife and five year old daughter were killed last Friday when a freight train hit their vehicle at the intersection of Highway 290 and FM 1098. It was the second such accident at the intersection this year and the sixth accident overall on a stretch of railroad track from Hempstead to Waller since January.

Sgt. Bryan Price, 35, a 13-year veteran of the Pasadena police department, was rushed to Cy-Fair Hospital, but was pronounced dead at 1:30 a.m. Saturday. Price's 5 year old daughter died one hour after the accident, which occurred at 7 p.m. Sherry Price, 33, who was pregnant, was dead at the scene. The family dog, an Irish Setter, was also killed at the scene.

According to witness Frank Gans, Price, driving a

Blazer 4X4 and towing a small camper, made the left at the intersection, at the same time a freight train was reaching the crossing. Witnesses said the locomotive engine struck the rear of the Blazer and the camper, dragging the truck around and smashing it against the side of the engine. The vehicles were separated, the truck being dragged for 100 yards before being deposited next to Old Houston Highway.

Gans said he and several other students immediately rushed to the scene, as the train ground to a halt.

"The man (Price) was already out of the car when we got there," Gans said. "He took a couple of steps then dropped. You could see his collar bone and several ribs poking out of the skin."

"The woman was still inside the car...she had a few cuts, but except for that, there was no blood in the car."

See "Wreck" Page 7

State Treasurer Speaks at PV

By Jeffery Armstrong
Managing Editor

Focusing on the past accomplishments of minorities is something blacks at Prairie View need to do, Texas state treasurer Ann Richards told students at Hobart Taylor Recital Hall Tuesday.

She mentioned that over \$8 million was used to make Prairie View more efficient for students.

"This was done because

you asked for it," said Richards, who plans to run for governor of Texas next year.

In her hour long speech to students and faculty, Richards told of how Prairie View has come a long way, especially with research development and the proposed SuperCollider project detector center.

When asked if the "good ol' boys" (the male politicians) would be ready for her run for the office of governor, Richards simply stated, "They'd better be ready."

EDITORIAL

No Lights, No Signal...Accident

Last Friday, a Houston police officer, his pregnant wife and his five year-old daughter were killed when a locomotive crushed their Blazer at the intersection of Hwy 290 and FM 1098. This was the second serious accident this year at the crossing. Two crossings ahead at Hempstead were two more train-auto accidents this year. In Waller, at the True Value crossing, two Waller High School teens were killed and a third injured when their car was hit by a train. A week later, a man escaped death when a train sheared his truck cab off just behind the driver's seat.

Never mind how these accidents occurred or who was responsible. None of these crossings had signal lights or gates to prevent crossing when a train is passing through. The old DPS rule of stopping at railroad tracks and looking before crossing obviously went out the window long ago. Human error tells us we have to have these safeguards to not only protect us from trains, but from ourselves, as well.

The Panther calls on every Waller County resident (and student at Prairie View A&M) to push for safe railroad crossings. Put pressure on your elected officials, such as the mayor, city council and county commissioners to press the state for a solution. Remember, we also put a new representative into office. Make sure Greg Laughlin does something for Waller County in this time of need. Tell James Muse and Judge McCaig and R. L. Kubiak what we need from them in return for paying their salaries.

SGA, Student Body Should Interact More

Election time for SGA has come again. We will have new officers and we can only hope they and the student body actually communicate this time. Fortunately, a decision was made to delay the elections from one to three weeks. This is good for us and good for the candidates. That week from application deadline to election allowed no one to effectively campaign to let students know who they are and what they stand for. There are many issues out there to be dealt with and students should at least know what they may be getting for their money, so to speak.

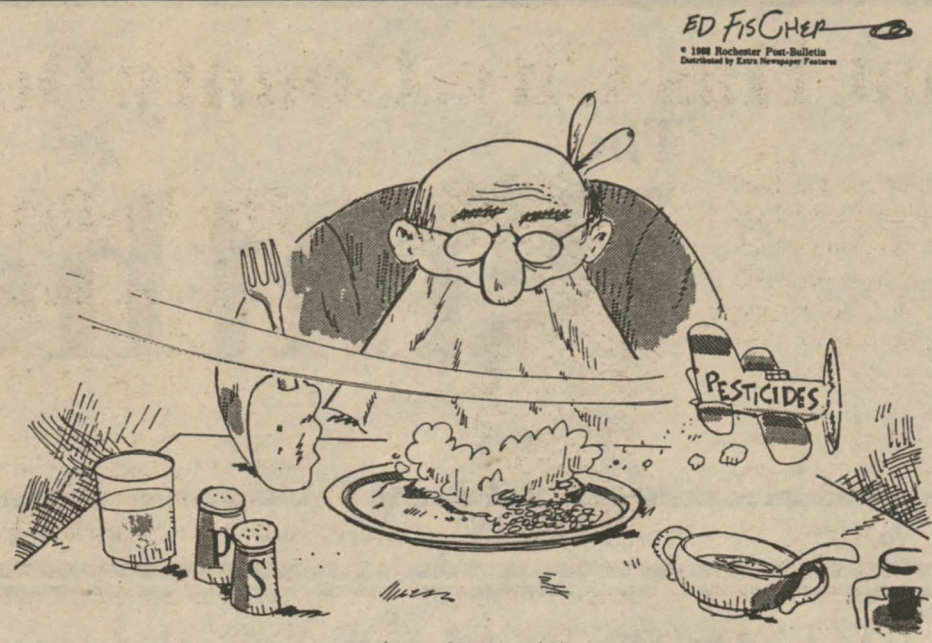
Last year, no one attended the meetings out of the student body. SGA reports to the Panther were rather sparse. Senate week went by like yesterday's trash. This is no way to run a school. Student apathy is evident even at the so-called "big schools" like Texas A&M and UT-Austin, but that doesn't mean their SGA equivalents disappear into the Twilight Zone, never to be heard from until election time.

So, find out about your student candidates, see what they have to offer and make a choice. Then, participate in the SGA, help them out and help us all out.

PRAIRIE VIEW PANTHER Prairie View A&M University

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The Panther is printed biweekly. It serves Prairie View A&M University and the surrounding community and seeks to inform, act as a voice for the university and give majors hands-on training in their chosen profession. Views expressed in the Panther are not necessarily those of the university, the Texas A&M Board of Regents or the Texas A&M University System.



Letters-to-the-Editor

Miss Prairie Views Can Fit Miss America Molds

In response to the article published in the March 30 - April 12, 1989 issue of The Panther (Miss PV Too Much for Miss America Mold?).

First of all, I would like to commend any individual who has ever participated in any pageant. It requires a great deal of self-confidence, stamina and character. Mr. Editor-in-Chief, do you possess these attributes? If so, why don't you run? Why do you (and others on your staff) choose to belittle others? True, you have your opinion and, of course, are entitled to voice it. And I have my opinion also...

Not all men of color are "into" the physical qualities of a woman. Or as you stated, those who "fill to much of the

gowns and bathing suits..." Men who have women, (by the way, do you have one?) do not want one who has cellulite protruding from a bathing swimsuit.

In your article you mentioned being "In front of the stage..." Well, Mr. Smith, let me refresh your memory. The jazz routine done to the Wiz' "I'm A Mean Ol' Lion" was not done in, as you stated, "a baggy lion suit with a torn tail..." As I recall, it was a body suit showing off that same body that won the swimsuit competition in the pageant.

In short, I would just like to say that I believe Black females do fit the mold to represent us as Miss America. Ms. Charles and Ms. Williams

have already proven this to be true.

Also, there are too many positive articles that can be written about Prairie View A&M University. (Other than those concerning the Navy). More than enough has already been written degrading women and others on this campus. Quite frankly, it needs to stop.

Felicia McLeod

Editor's Note:

Is it belittling to say I think our ladies are too good for Miss America-still-in-the-dark-ages.

Thank you, very much for ruining everything good I had to say. But, you are entitled to your own opinion...

OPINION

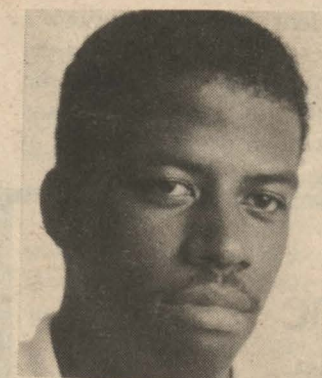
What Has City, County Done for Prairie View

Ever notice, all the food places in Prairie View? Ever have trouble choosing which clothing to buy from or which convenience store to get gas from in Prairie View? Ever wonder why McDonald's located itself in Hempstead instead a big college town like Prairie View? Of course, you haven't.

Why is that? Not to badmouth Hempstead, but I don't think McDonald's was trying to get the exclusive food sale rights to Hempstead High. Likewise, the reason we have no trouble picking clothing stores or getting gas in PV is there's no choice, in the first place.

Why didn't Mickey D's set up shop in Prairie View in the first place? As a matter of fact, why didn't Hartz Chicken locate here or the proposed Seven-11 or Texas Instruments factory? Why does Palais Royal rake up hundreds of credit cards in Alumni instead of building a store here and getting credit cards and more sales?

Why? Because of the Prairie View city council,



that's why.

According to an anonymous source (those unsung whistleblowers interested in making others' lives better), Prairie View city councilmen, the same ones elected by us students the last four to five years, have been trying to keep PV "a quiet bedroom community." That means keeping the students on the yard and passing city ordinances that supposedly allow the city police to arrest people for what they consider loud parties.

Major reasons companies like McDonald's, Hartz and Seven-11 want to locate here is:

1) Cheap labor -- Our students will need the money

The In-Between Side...

Gregory M. Smith Editor-in-Chief

and will work for less than the union \$15 an hour.

Presently, Hempstead teens make all the money at McDonald's. In Prairie View, cows moo and grass bends in the breeze.

2) Business -- College crowds drop tons of money into local economies (or in our case, Hempstead and Waller) every year. Businesses would clean up with business from the rest of Waller County, as well as the commuter crowd from Houston and Bryan/College Station.

As it stands now, Waller, Hempstead and Houston get all our business. In Prairie View, cows moo and grass bends in the stiff breeze.

Just building a mall would be an excellent compromise. Then we could shop at places like Foley's, Sears, WalMart, Target, and other stores popular

with young people. We could eat at McD's, Burger King, Arby's, Denny's; buy cards at Hallmark, and go to movies, arcades and bowling alleys and exercise with a president or a first lady or a Jack LaLaine. Hey, it would beat the 90 - 120 minute drive to Willowbrook, Greenspoint and Galvez.

What would it mean for the city of Prairie View?

3) TAXES!!!!

Instead of drawing its funds from high taxes to residents, traffic ticket fines and taxes on ARA, the city would rake in thousands, perhaps tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars in property taxes. The city would be happy, the university happy and the students happy, not to mention Waller County as a whole.

But...alas, we students ultimately would defeat this medium. In all the elections

the city has had and all the people elected by students, what has the city done for Prairie View A&M University?

Of course, the county has given us free showings of train-car collisions; neon lights from patrol cars to remind us of a normal city; free passage of ambulances from the campus to hospitals 20 miles away; ease in shopping with only one place to shop, and ease in voting by splitting the campus into two voting districts so we won't have to wait in long lines, something so trivial.

With the detector center being built and hundreds of jobs waiting and all the aforementioned businesses filing petitions for zoning, should we let Hempstead and Waller get the beef while we, the students, get the fat?

City elections are coming up May 6, 1989. When you go to the polls, think about what Prairie View's elected officials say they would do for you, then think of what they've actually done for you and vote accordingly.

Do You Know SGA Candidates? You Should

By Don Gray
Op-Ed Writer

dealing with the university's internal problems, dormitory repairs and the accreditation of individual departments. According to Frazier, students need to stop complaining about the lack of departmental accreditation and start actually doing hands-on-work to determine how a department may receive proper accreditation. They should demand (through letter, petitions, etc.) that the university make meeting these qualifications first priority.

As for her platform, Frazier wishes to exemplify the virtues of continual education, unity and campus/Prairie View pride. Though they may sound simplistic, Frazier points out that these are the ingredients necessary for the SGA to truly be a vehicle that will bring about positive change for the university.

She stresses that continual education involves the student population working for and not waiting for the learning process (as in the case of accreditation). Students should volunteer for committees and become aware of the processes by which change may be brought about rather than demanding change without knowledge.

This flows into her next point on unity. Frazier wishes to eliminate the idea that the faculty/administration is the enemy. The only way we will continue to move on is when harmony among the students, faculty and alumni dictate that all are working for a common goal. As for pride, Frazier suggests programming to better care for ourselves. This includes university spirit packages, more detailed evacuation procedures, rally cards, etc. Of course, this all

involves a change in attitude starting with us. We need to talk (not argue) with the administration, provide intelligent feedback, and be willing to work.

Of course, as so loudly pointed out by the House of Kail Austin (a senior economics, accounting, pre-law major also vying for the SGA presidential slot), Frazier lacks the experience and has only been involved in student government for one year. Austin says "How can you learn student government in one year and attempt to lead it the next?"

Frazier pointed out that, as president of the Student Senate, she has done more in one year to help the student body than any other individual in student government. Frazier herself asks, "If so many others have the experience and know-how

of how the system works, why haven't they worked before?"

Well, what about Kail Austin, Frazier's primary competitor?

Austin is the currently SGA vice-president serving under Carla Murray. During our interview, Austin continuously pointed out that "My office is above the Senate president." Austin believes that the issues for this particular election are food service, housing, health services and campus activities. Austin says that current food service is lacking in quality and is simply the same food in a different package.

Though I'm not sure what this has to do with the election, Austin insisted the Francine Frazier has a car and can travel off campus to eat.

See "SGA" page 14

NEWS

Students Express Concerns Over Fires

By Kimetris Baltrip
Staff Writer

Debates, proposals, and rebuttals punctuated an emergency meeting called April

3 by the SGA Senate to discuss problems with security and fire alarm systems in the dormitories at Prairie View A&M University. Francine Frazier, senate

president, expressed her concern about the series of bomb threats and fires that have recently occurred at PVAMU. She pleaded for cooperation from the entire

student body in running a letter-writing campaign to the president of PVAMU, the chancellor, and the Texas A&M System Board of Regents.

Some audience members rebutted her proposal and wanted to see more done for the welfare of the students.

Larry Cunningham, director of Holley Hall, said measures to ensure student safety were already taking place.

He said that since the fire in Holley Hall, which was deliberately set and caused over \$10,000 in damage, the trash chutes are wet down and the grounds crew is supposed to empty all trash chutes prior to 5 p.m.

Students also are not to dump their garbage after 5 p.m. Cunningham said that the fire extinguishers, which are frequently tampered with by students, will be replaced also.

Questions on why the effectiveness of the security unit and volunteer fire station are poor flooded the room.

Frank Jackson, volunteer fire department chief, said that most of their problems are associated with a lack of funds.

Jackson said the funding for the security programs at PVAMU comes from auxiliary monies -- that is, student fees, alumni donations, and grants.

PVAMU is not able to receive security assistance from the surrounding towns because not only are PVAMU's security unit and volunteer fire station undermanned, but also security departments in Waller and Hempstead, Jackson said.

Cunningham said aside from all the technical problems, student cooperation during a state of emergency is also a major problem.

He said students were almost arrested for attempting to go back into Holley Hall during the fire.

Frazier also spoke of the need of student cooperation and participation.

"It takes everyone to make this campus move," she said. "It's time to stop pointing the finger and work together."

Suggestions from the audience on how to better the situation at PVAMU were numerous.

See "Emergency" page 15

"Mom says the house just isn't the same without me, even though it's a lot cleaner."



Liz Corsini • Boston University • Class of 1990

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NEWS

Research Center Produces New Goat Breed

PRAIRIE VIEW - A pure white cashmere goat was born recently at the International Dairy Goat Research Center (IDGRC) at Prairie View A&M University.

IGDRC researchers say the birth, which occurred from crossbreeding two select Texas breeds with an Australian breed of goat, is an important step toward launching a new American industry in Texas.

"While there are three cashmere processing plants in the U. S., all raw materials for American processing plants are imported," Alden Reine,

research director of the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center, said. "It is our intention to transfer the fiber production technology to U. S. farmers as rapidly as possible in order to supply the demand of domestic processors."

Cashmere, considered the finest of natural fiber, is produced as down undercoat and may be found on most goats to some extent. In the early 19th century, cashmere came from the Indian province of Kashmir, but is now imported from Russia, Iran,

Afghanistan, Australia, New Zealand and China, which sells only the finished product.

In addition to the fiber, the goat meat, also known as chevron, is considered valuable merchandising asset because of the low fat content and leanness of the meat.

IDGRC research leader Thian Hor Teh explained how Prairie View has progressed in establishing a new cashmere goat breed, funded by a \$90,600 grant from the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture/Cooperative States Research Service.

"First, we documented the cashmere-producing goats in Texas and selected the best breeds to upgrade with purebred cashmere bucks through artificial insemination," Teh said. "This was necessary to concentrate the genus for cashmere production."

This method was used to crossbreed the two Texas breeds with the Australian breed, with an expected production of 60 kids (offspring). The first, an all-white kid occurred in late March. Pure White is the most valuable of the cashmères.

Teh said he is optimistic

about the economic results from the cashmere goat research.

"We are providing the basis for a new industry, with an enormous potential -- especially with buyers eager to process the cashmere," Teh said.

Jackson Promoted to Commander

U. S. Naval Reservist Lt. Cdr. Frank Jackson, Director of Auxiliary Services at Prairie View A&M University, was promoted to the permanent rank of Commander last month.

Commander Jackson, a 1973 graduate of PVAMU and commissioned officer of the Prairie View Navy ROTC, is currently assigned as Officer-in-Charge, Craft Opportunity Squadron 2215, Galveston for his reserve duties.

Jackson's other civic duties include: Fire chief, Prairie View Volunteer Fire

See "Jackson" page 15

Navy Prepares for 21st Pass-in-Review

By Gregory Smith
Editor-in-Chief

Preparations for the Prairie View A&M University Navy ROTC's 21st Pass-in-Review are underway.

Preparations include morning practices for midshipmen, nominating midshipmen for awards and finding a guest speaker, Lt. Mark Morris, unit public affairs officer, said. As of press time, no speaker had been confirmed.

According to Morris, the purpose of the pass-in-review

is "to present awards to outstanding midshipmen who have earned them for their performance throughout the year."

Some of the awards presented annually include awards from such organizations as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, General Dynamics, The Naval Institute, the Navy League and Military Affairs Command.

A major portion of the preparations goes for the pomp and ceremony by the midshipmen battalion. The unit has been practicing every

Tuesday and Thursday morning for the past three weeks, as seen by early morning passers-by at the driver's education lot. Despite the endless practice, it is a very necessary part of the whole ceremony, the most visual.

"When you have a ceremony like that, it's part of military tradition to pass the troops in review," Morris said. "A takes a lot of practice to make sure all the steps of the ceremony go right."

Other work for the ceremony includes securing a guest speaker, doing

evaluations for awards and doing all the necessary paperwork.

"A lot of time goes into this, to make sure it goes off at all," Morris said.

Though the review this year won't match the flair of the unit's media-filled 20th anniversary last year as the nation's first NROTC unit at a predominantly black university, for the midshipmen, it's the most important time of the year.



A prank turns the fountain outside Alumni Hall into an outdoor bubble bath

Photo by Jeff Armstrong

Frazier Chosen Outstanding Engineering Major

Prairie View -- Francine Frazier, a junior electrical engineering major at Prairie View A&M University, recently won first place for her research paper at the 7th Annual Research Association of Minority Professors meeting

in Houston. PV undergraduate Darrell Gibson took fourth place in the competition.

At the three-day conference, university administrators, professors and undergraduates presented abstracts on their research

findings. Frazier, whose paper "Boundary Valued Problems Involving Heat Conditions" won the competition, will present her paper at the Beta Kappa Chi national honor society in Nashville, Tennessee later this month.

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NEWS

CAMPUS NEWS ROUNDUP

Gray Wins 10K Run

For the third time in four years, Donald Gray, a Senior radio/television major at Prairie View, won the Navy ROTC 10K Run last Saturday.

Cadet Sharon Dyson captured two first place trophies -- in the preliminary mile run and the 10K respectively.

Midshipman 4/C Joseph Davis took second in the mile behind Gray with a time of 5:25 to Gray's 5:05.

The race was co-sponsored by the Prairie View Navy ROTC and Coca-Cola Corp. of Brenham, Texas.

Talley Art Exhibit in Hockley

Prairie View -- An exhibit titled "A Matter of Print" will be shown at the Hockley Community Center from now until April 21.

The exhibit displays the artwork of Prairie View A&M University professor Rev. Clarence Talley, Sr. and students in his printmaking class.

According to Talley, the art utilizes new and innovative methods in printing. Students whose work will be displayed are as follows: James 20 III, Marcus M. Crowe, Mark Hatfield, Tina Holland,

Wendell Mathews, Marguerite Schmidt, Lou Nell Sims, Leesonina Turner, LaShawn Webb and Davis Young.

For further details, contact (409) 857-2929.

Bomb Threats Cause Confusion

Recent bomb threats in Waller County and on the campus of Prairie View A&M University have caused alarm and inconvenience for university officials.

The threats, which started in early February, frustrate authorities because they have no suspects or leads in the case. Even though no explosive materials have been discovered, officials continue to take the threats seriously.

"We must take all bomb threats seriously because it involves human life," Prairie View Volunteer fire chief Frank Jackson said. "Basically, we evacuate the building and search it."

Jackson speculated that a prankster is probably responsible for the fictitious threats. He said someone obviously thinks it is funny to call and threaten to blow up a dormitory or building.

Exact identification of the caller could not be determined, but Jackson said the person was not a Middle Eastern terrorist, as some students had thought.

"No, the voices are not foreign nationals," Jackson

said. "They are American voices. Also, males and females are making bomb threats."

"The bomb threats disrupt and inconvenience the normal work day of the faculty, staff and students," Jackson added.

Chief Jackson said there was no definite correlation between the bomb threats and the recent escalation of arson on campus, the latest incident being a burned trash dumpster behind the Naval Science building Tuesday morning before dawn.

"We will file as many charges as possible on the individual (responsible)," Prairie View A&M University fire chief R. V. Stephens said.

Stephens said charges ranging from local to federal levels could be filed against the offender. False reports, which is the deliberate dissemination of fraudulent information to authorities, could be classified as either a misdemeanor or third-degree felony, Stephens said.

"It is frustrating to locate this individual," Stephens said. "We urge the residential students to inform security who is doing this so that we can take action."

Health Awareness Week Successful

Involving the Waller community in all the available health care was the main

purpose of last week's Health Awareness Week, sponsored by OWens-Franklin Clinic, Prairie View A&M University and the Waller County Extension Program Council.

Students and Waller County residents took advantage of free dental screenings, hearing tests, eye exams, blood pressure screenings and nutritional analyses. Test for sickle cell anemia, HIV AIDS and mammograms were available for a small fee.

The programs also sponsored a successful blood donation drive, A rap contest, touting health care issues and AIDS and drug prevention was held for local high school students.

Collman Receives AICPA Scholarship

Prairie View -- Prairie View A&M University junior business major Etus E. Collman was awarded a scholarship for the second half of the 1988-89 academic school year by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He is one of 102 minority undergraduates and graduates nationwide to receive an award.

The AICPA scholarships are designed to encourage minorities to enter the accounting profession by making accounting education accessible to as many qualified

students as possible.

Individuals interested in applying for the scholarship should write to:

Sharon Donahue, Manager, Minority Recruitment, AICPA, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-8775. Deadline for receipt of applications are July 1 and December 1.

NAACP Kicks Off Membership Drive

The Prairie View A & M University chapter of the NAACP announced plans for its spring membership drive. This and other issues were discussed at the chapters' March 30th meeting.

The membership drive, which began April 3rd, is an annual event sponsored by the Youth and College Division of the organization. The chapters' goal is to recruit 20 members a month. The purpose of the drive is to get students and faculty involved in NAACPs' activities. Activities include economic development, education, and better housing.

The chapter presently has 47 members, including four officers. Officers are Monique Swygert, president; William Fisher, vice-president; Kymberlie Neely, secretary; La Monica Jenkins, treasurer.

The Roy Wilkins Scholarship is an educational scholarship for high school seniors and college freshman. The scholarship is named for the late Roy Wilkins, NAACP Executive Director from 1955 to 1977. Applications materials may be obtained from Monique Swygert at 123 Banks Hall. Deadline for the scholarship is May 1st.

The next event planned by the chapter is an anti-apartheid march tentatively set for April 19.

NEWS

Gilpin Players Celebrate 60th with Fanfare

PRAIRIE VIEW - The Charles Gilpin Players, the distinguished theatre company at Prairie View A&M University, will celebrate their 60th Anniversary Saturday, April 22 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The much-honored Gilpin Players were founded in 1929 by Dr. Earl Sasser. The players were named for black actor Charles Gilpin, famous for his portrayals of Emperor Jones and Othello in the United States and Europe early in this century.

"Performing consistently for 60 years, it is the oldest active black theatre company in the Southwest," an anniversary official said.

Sasser, who left PVAMU in 1945 and now resides in Nashville, Tennessee, will be

honored with other former directors of the Gilpin Players

Gilpins Set Stage For First Spring Production

The Charles Gilpin Players and the Theatre Arts Program will present their first major production of the Spring 1989 season from April 18 - 21. The play, entitled *The Heiress*, was written by Ruth and Augustus Goetz, and will be directed by Dr. Ted Shine.

The story takes place in New York City during the mid-1800's in a beautiful home in Washington Square. Catherine Sloper, the heiress, is deprived of love and happiness because of her lack of beauty and her reserved nature until she meets Morris

at the anniversary convocation.

Gilpin alumni, teachers,

Townsend, the charming, hospitable and poor chap who asks for her hand in marriage. Will Catherine go against her father and wed Morris or risk losing her one chance at happiness?

Performances begin at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre of Hobart Taylor, Sr. building. Admission is \$1.50 for students and senior citizens and \$3 for the general public.

For more information, contact the drama department at (409) 857-2356 Monday - Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

directors and supporters are invited to attend the anniversary commemoration, beginning with registration from 11 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be served from noon - 1:15 p.m., followed by a campus tour from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. The convocation, featuring Gilpin alumni, will go from 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., with a reception to follow.

Last fall, the Gilpins won five awards for their performance of Euripides' *Medea* at the 21st Annual College Theatre Festival in San Antonio.

Under the direction of present director C. Lee Turner, the troupe performed before three standing-room-only audiences at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. -- as one of only six college companies in the nation appearing on the

American College Theatre Festival Program.

Their original musical cabaret *Cotton Club Review* swept most of the major awards at the Northwest American College Theatre Festival in 1983. They performed at the World's Fair in New Orleans in 1984, and their 1986 performance of *The Shadow Box* at the American College Theatre Festival won every major award.

SPRING MUSIC EVENTS
April 13: Dr. Danny Kelley and student Kelvin McClendon

April 14: Angela Hines in voice recital

April 16: University Choir

April 27: University Percussion Ensemble

Palmer Sees Singing, Acting in Future

from front page
took long hours with rehearsals, meetings, interviews and just the jitters all through the show. Amazingly enough, though, these were not her most difficult times.

"My walk, that was the hardest thing for me," she mused, referring to her poise in the swimsuit and evening gown segments of the pageant.

During the practices and preparations, Palmer said she and the other contestants grew closer as the pageant neared.

"Our friendship grew a lot during the pageant," she said. "We supported each other."

She described the other contestants as being nice, friendly, very ambitious and very beautiful.

So far, she said, she is honored and happy with her new title, despite numerous duties, interviews and appearances.

"Even though it's busy, I love every minute of it," she said. "I wouldn't give it up for the world."

Despite her new position and, with it, new responsibilities, Palmer says she is basically her old self. Aside from calling her "Miss Prairie View," her friends still approach her and say hello and

they exchange hugs. She says they still love her and she still loves them.

Her future plans call for ambitious goals, including singing and acting.

"I want to be the first award-winning black female country vocalist," she said.

She would like to join the ranks of her favorite country performers like Reba McEntire, K. T. Oslin, Randy Travis and Charlie Pride.

She also said she eventually wanted to go into movies and television. Of course, with hobbies like singing, acting, dancing, writing and drawing, those goals are definitely within reach.

"First, I want to do a little work in the theatre because I

Wreck 2nd at Crossing

cont'd from front page

"We didn't find the guy's daughter for a while because she was in the bushes, wrapped around a telephone pole."

Prairie View police speculated that Price may have been blinded by the sun or had his vision obscured by sand piles along the tracks. Witnesses at the scene said the train had been blowing its whistle constantly and that the

have something to prove," Palmer said, referring to her major studies in Theatre Arts.

Then, she said, she will branch out into dramatic film and television projects.

This is after she enjoys all her winnings from the pageant, including luggage, a scholarship for the fall and spring, Miss America jewelry, a \$1000 wardrobe budget and a trip to the Bahamas.

As for now, however, it is back to business as queen. She must prepare herself for the Miss Texas Pageant set for July 5 - 8 in Fort Worth. She said she is quite confident of her chances, just by her performance in the Miss PV Pageant.

"It's going to be a good year and we're going places."

sound could be heard all the way to the campus of Prairie View A&M University while the train was still in Hempstead.

Elements of the Prairie View and Prairie View A&M University police, Waller County Sheriff and Constable, Department of Public Safety

See "Wreck" page 15

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Business Administration	PhD*	Mathematics	MA, MS
Chemistry	MS, PhD*	Nursing	MSN
Computer Science	MS, PhD	Operations Research	MSOR
Engineering		Physics	MS, PhD
Electrical & Computer	MS, PhD	Public Affairs	MAS
Industrial & Systems	MS, PhD	Psychology	MA
Mechanical	MS, PhD		

*In cooperation with The University of Alabama

In many curricula, an assistantship may be combined with the graduate level co-op program. Assistantship stipends alone vary between \$5,000 and \$16,000 per academic year plus tuition.

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May 6, 1989

Absentee Vote April 17 - May 2

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FEATURE

FEATURE

Highlights of the 1989-90 Miss Prairie View A&M University Scholarship Pageant



Photos by Jeffery Armstrong

Talent Stands Out Most At Miss PV Pageant

By Kimetris Baltrip
Staff Writer

Mary Ann Palmer was crowned Miss Prairie View A&M University 1989-90 at the 20th Annual PV Scholarship Pageant April 1.

Palmer, a 21 year-old junior Theatre Arts major from Bellville, Texas, earned her title with a rousing adaption of Reba McIntire's *Little Rock*, a country/western song.

Though Palmer was the first contestant ever to sing a country/western song for talent, she received a standing ovation at the end of her performance. Accordingly, she won the special talent award.

Palmer said she began preparing for the pageant in the spring of 1988. She said that, after attending the 1988 coronation of Rachelle Fisher, Miss PV 1988-89, she knew she wanted to be queen.

"I feel God has predestined my life," she said.

The new Miss Prairie View also offered some advice to future contestants.

"Set your goals and reach for them because the sky is the limit to what you, I and

everybody can have," she said.

Palmer heads to Fort Worth in July to compete in the Miss Texas Pageant.

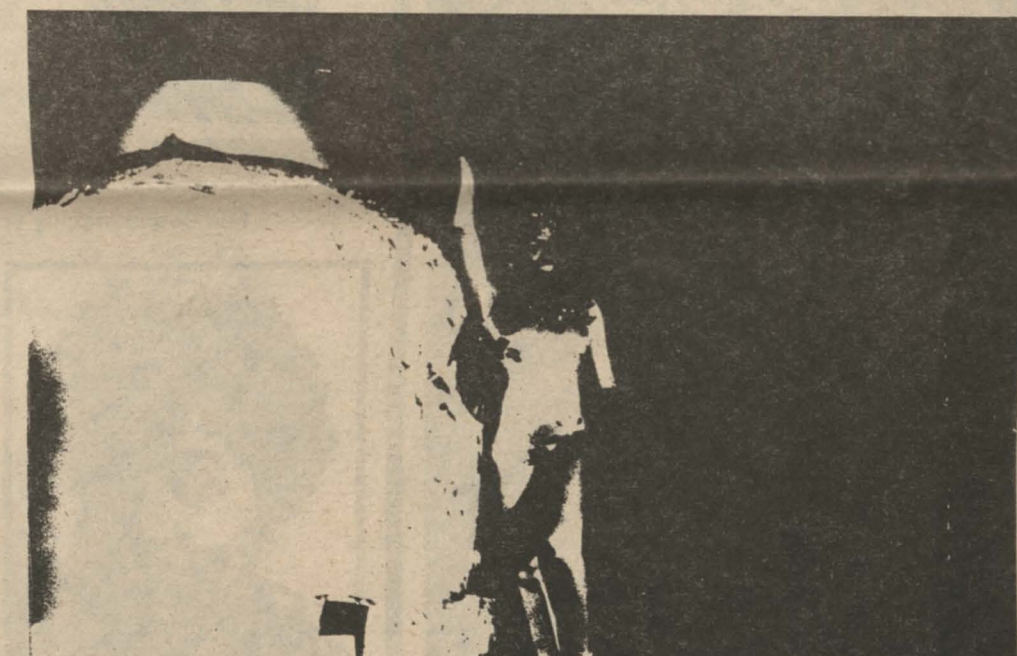
Monique Woods, who performed a modern jazz dance routine, won 1st Runner-up position. She also shared Best Interview with another pageant contestant, Sonja Howard.

Linda Platt took second Runner-up with her rendition of Bette Midler's classic *The Rose*. She was also voted Miss Congeniality by the other contestants.

Entertainment for the pageant was provided by Miss PV 1988-89 Rachelle Fisher; Dominique Eagleton, 1st Runner-up to Fisher, and Theresa Scott. Miss Prairie View 1970-71, Margaret Penn-Sherrod, served as emcee for the pageant.

Frederick Roberts served as executive director for the event, with Lia Berry producing, Emile Evans, 2nd runner-up to Miss PV 88-89, directing and

Todd Davis serving as assistant director.



FEATURE

KPVU: Behind the Scenes of PV Radio Station

By Tatia Epting
Feature Editor

Each morning, students wake up to the soothing sounds of KPVU gospel. In the afternoon, they relax to the rhythm of KPVU jazz. Each disc spun is preceded by a voice -- a voice without a face. These voices tell who is singing the songs, what time of day it is and what type of song is being played, among other things.

All of this information is being provided without so much as a second thought as to who is speaking. Haven't you ever wondered about the people behind these voices?

The ladies who help to bring you the quality listening experience are Ancheska English and Claudia Sutton for the Gospel program and Mia Cogell for afternoon Jazz. All three ladies are communications majors at Prairie View A&M University.

The Morning Hosts
Ancheska English, a junior from Houston, began working at the station doing news and Public Service Announcements. She now hosts the Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning gospel programs. When asked what prompted her to do this show

she had this to say...

T.E.: What prompted you to do this particular format?

A.E.: "I wanted to do a radio show and gospel was all that was available."

T.E.: What type of

response are you getting from your listeners?

A.E.: "The response from the listeners has been positive. I've just finished emceeing a concert for Bethel Baptist Church in Sealy. A minister

Gospel. She will be doing some Gospel promotions in Austin this summer.

Afternoon Jazz
From 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Mia Cogell begins to wind us
See "KPVU" page 15



Photos by Jeff Armstrong

Mia Cogell happily spins discs for her afternoon KPVU audience



Bolar

Secretary Finds Life At KPVU Easier, Less Hectic

Mrs. Willie Mae Bolar is the secretary for KPVU. Her job includes answering the telephones, doing clerical work, typing up letters for pledges and other duties to numerous to describe fully.

Though she has been at KPVU only one year, she has been at Prairie View for nine. She says she likes working at the station because the working atmosphere is somewhat more pleasant than her last position elsewhere on the campus.

"I enjoy working with the students and staff," she said. "It

See "Bolar" page 15

who listens to the Gospel program called and asked if I would do it. I had a good time. It was fun."

T.E.: What is your over-all opinion on KPVU's formats?

A.E.: "I feel that they have improved their selection of music. There seems to be more structure."

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Claudia Sutton, a sophomore from Austin, brings yet another quality listening experience.

For Sutton doing a Gospel morning show is just her way of letting her light shine.

"Through gospel music I feel I can reach a larger majority of people. I love it when people call in even if its only to say hi," she said.

There are, of course, some drawbacks to do a show like this so early in the morning.

"I guess the worst part is having to get up at 5:00 a.m. or if I am in a bad mood," Sutton said. "But, somehow, when I began to play the music it puts me in a good mood and I don't worry about it."

Sutton plans to stick with



Coleman

PV Grad Turned Program Director Wears Many Hats

Larry Coleman, graduate of Prairie View and program director for KPVU, feels his job requires him to wear many hats.

"As Program Director it is my job to see that there is proper staffing personnel and programing, which is the music talk shows, and underwriters," he said.

Coleman stated that prior to beginning his career at KPVU, he spent one year working at KYOK in Houston. Right after he finished his undergraduate studies, he

See "Coleman" page 15

FEATURE

Other Side of Coin: Life at the 'Other' A&M

By Mildred Charley & Fredricka Poindexter
Staff Interns

Close your eyes. Closed? Good. Now take a deep breath and concentrate. You're naked and white and standing in the middle of a shopping mall. Not just any shopping mall, but a mall filled to capacity with Blacks!

Yipes!

Michelle Brenckman, author of a recent article in *Gigemag* (a publication distributed at Texas A&M) about Prairie View A&M University titled "Impressions of a White Woman in a Black World," cited this unsettling experience as tantamount to what she felt at PVU.

"People, young and old, look at me suspiciously; many young black women return my smile, but others turn away. Young male students either ignore my presence completely or draw attention to the fact that I don't belong," the article read.

Brenckman quickly inserts the fact she attended a predominantly black junior high school during the late 60's, a school which she says was recently in the news for suspending "gun-toting students and staff."

Even these outstanding credentials were not enough to prepare her for what she encountered here at PVU. The reporter was amazed to find that rather than running around in tattered slave garb, many of the students were well-dressed and a few had traded in their mules and wagons for some pretty nice cars.

It was the reporter's intention to maintain a low profile and, as unobtrusively as possible, observe student life first hand and photograph the new buildings on campus.

"It is my plan to determine whether the predominantly black university is still segregated by design or by choice," she said.

Her initial impression of there being no whites at PVU was quickly proved wrong as she saw several white, Hispanics and Asians interacting with blacks on campus.

Brenckman talked specifically with Denny and Danny Singleton, two chemical engineering majors from Houston, who said that attending a predominantly black university took some getting used to, but that they

enjoyed it here. The twins admitted that the original reason they came to Prairie View was because of money provided to them under "minority scholarships."

Despite the positive things these people had to say about

Prairie View, Brenckman chose to focus on a recent letter-to-the-editor in *The Panther* concerning excessive violence on campus. Gary Smith, the author of the letter likened the atmosphere here to that of "The Wild Wild West." Frequent

shootouts, fights, and girlfriend battering were among the violent instances he named.

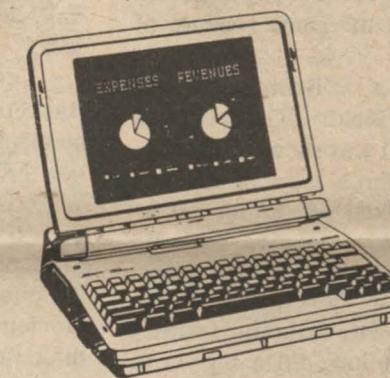
Overall, Brenckman's article leaves the reader with the impression that PV

See "A&M" page 14



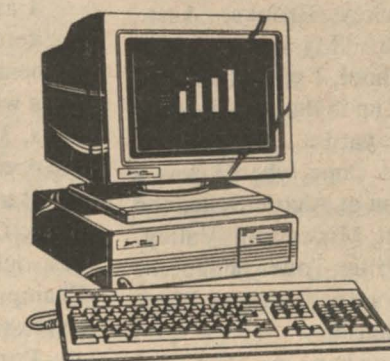
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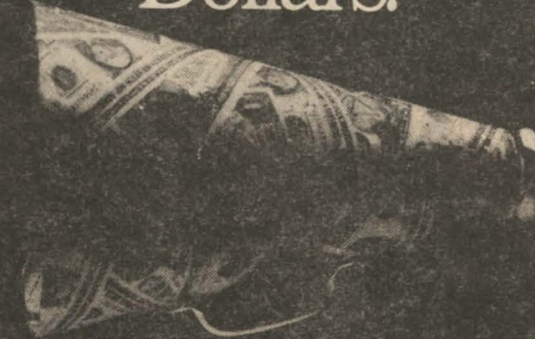
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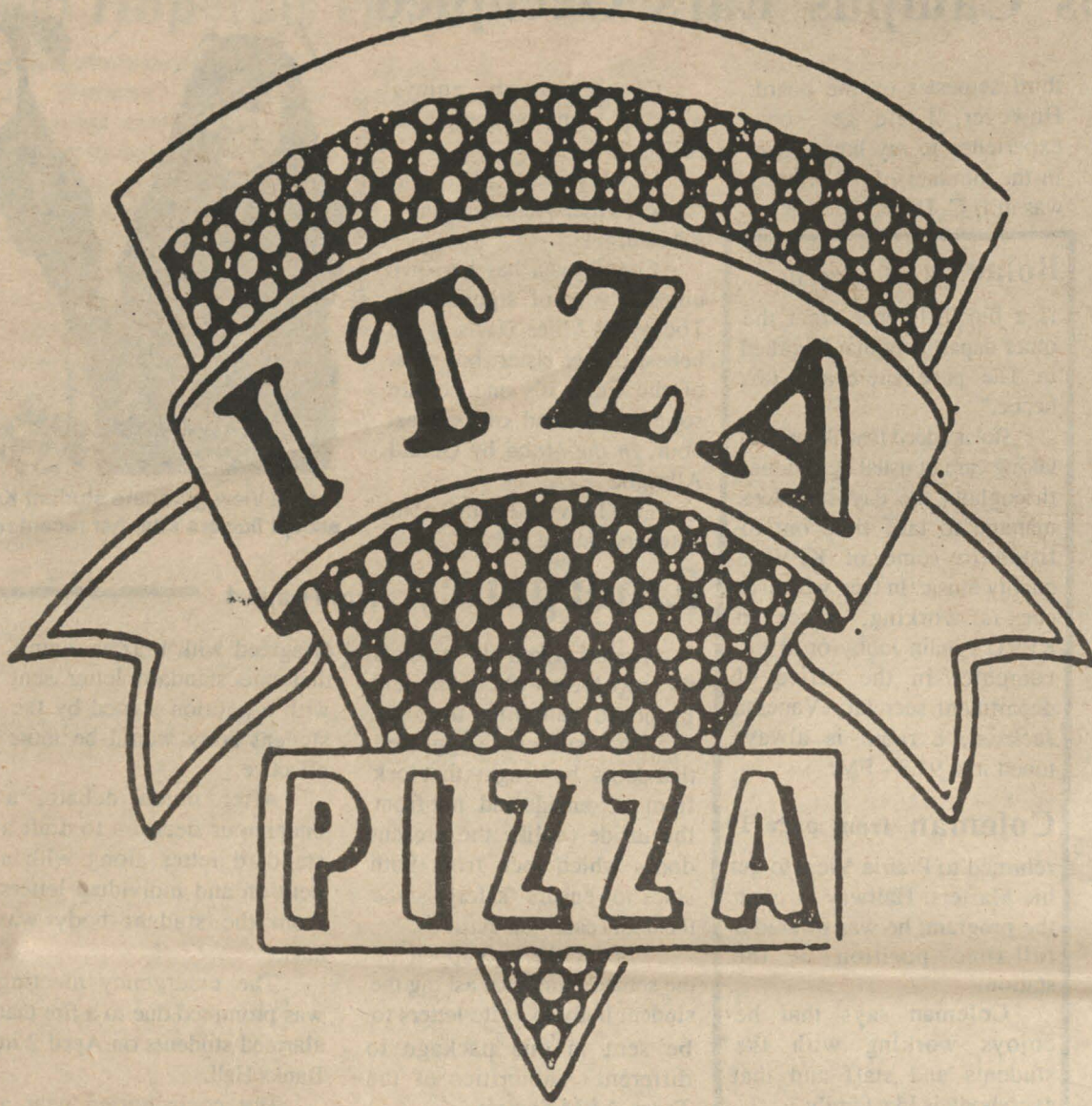


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